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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS RELATING TO THE
AMERICAN COLONIAL CHURCH 5



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RELATING TO THE AMERICAN
COLONIAL CHURCH
Volume V-Delaware

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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

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RELATING TO THE

AMERICAN COLONIAL CHURCH.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM STEVENS PERRY, D.D.

Volume V.---DELAWARE.

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No.

INTRODUCTION.

THE papers relating to the early history of the Church in Delaware are comparatively few in number, and in consequence of the interchange of labors on the part of the Missionaries and the connection with the neighboring provinces are found to throw quite as much light upon the condition of the Church in Pennsylvania and Maryland as upon the Church in the province under which they have been grouped by the late Historiographer of the American Church. They furnish among other papers of moment some particulars of general interest as to the condition of the Church Clergy at the opening of the War for Independence, while in their earlier details they give minutely a vivid description of the growth both of the outward fabric and the Spiritual Temple of the Church in Delaware.

The same care has been exercised in this volume as in others of this series to give a transcript of the copies and originals secured in England by the late Rev. Dr. Hawks, and these transcripts have been carefully followed.

BISHOP'S HOUSE, DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Feast of SS. Philip and James, 1878.

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*. The originals from which the papers in this volume were copied were found among the MSS. of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.



PAPERS RELATING
TO THE
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH
IN DELAWARE.

Mr. CRAWFORD to the Secretary.

DOVER HUNDRED IN KENT COUNTY
IN PENNSYLVANIA, April 3^d, 1706.

SIR,

Tho' I incline to be as little troublesome as possible to you or the Society, yet being encouraged by your Civility to me, as well as by your Command, I have presumed to trouble you with an Acco^t that I am now recovered of that long and dangerous seasoning I had been under at the writing of my last. As for the Church, I shall not trouble you therewith, supposing that the vestry have given you an Account of our progress, which is Little since my last.

But as to my Cure at my first Coming, I found the people all Stuffed with various Opinions, but not one in the place that was so much of a Churchman as to stand God-father for a Child, so that I was two months in the place before I baptized any, on that account they would have none, and I required. But now (I thank God) I have baptized a great number. They bring their Children with Sureties very orderly to the Church, and also people at age a great many, the greater part whereof were Quakers, and Quaker Children, for by God's blessing upon my Labours, I have not only gained the heart of my hearers

but some that were my greatest Enemies at first, and Quakers that were fully resolved against me are come over and have joyned themselves to our Communion. I have baptized families of them together; so I have daily additions to the Congregation. I remember that I desired to be removed from this place, but if it be not before this comes to your hands, I resolve to try my health this Summer, because the people are unwilling that my removal should be spoke off, and tho' I have nothing to engage me but this, That my Congregation has dayly additions; nay, for the most part, my Church is full each Sunday, and I have obtained the love of the people (I dare presume to say), but for money or any thing from them I have never received any as yet, for the people are poor, and love them best that does most for least money, so that I dare not ask.

Sir, I was lately in Sussex County where I preached several times, where I find a People mighty Civil, and a great many well inclined to the Church, and upon my application to the Gentlemen of the Place they have drawn up an address to my Lord of London for a Minister. The place is pleasant for Situation, and healthy, but the people are generally poor there, as well as where I am, but well affected and have promised me they shall do all they are able to maintain a Minister; who if of a Religious Conversation, will do great Service, but if not, St. Paul's gifts will not convert one soul; where this is wanting all our other Labours are in vain. They desire a Supply early by reason there is a Presbyterian preacher in the place whom, when I was there, I sent for, but refused me a meeting; his life is not very regular and I hope will do us no hurt. The Gentlemen desired me to write in their favours and now have sent their address to send home with my Letters. I hope the Society will grant their request, the sooner because they lye out of the way of all Supply. I am the nearest to them, Tho' I am about 50 miles from them. Sir, in the place where I live we have got a Society For the Reformation of Manners erected, which I hope will put a Stop to all profanity and Irreligion: any that formerly seemed to be inconsiderate in their words & actions now are more circumspect and begin to fear.

Sir, I have troubled you too much, for which I ask pardon, concluding with my humble Service to yourself and my prayers to God for the prosperity of the Hon^{ble} Society, I am Sir,

Your most humble servant,
THOS. CRAWFORD.

The Rev^d Mr. CRAWFORD to the Rev^d Mr. STUBBS.

DOVER HUND^d IN KENT COUNTY IN
PENNSYLVANIA, Apl. 8, 1706.

REV^d SIR,

Your Commands give boldness unto me to give you the trouble of this with my humble service to you and Mad^m Stubbs.

As to my Cure. when I came first unto the place I had not one that was so much of a Churchman as to stand Godfather for a child for want whereof I was two months in the place before ever I baptized any, I still required, and they would have no, sureties. But, I thank God, matters are a great deal altered and many of my hearers are become very orderly, nay, zealous in Religion; I have baptized a great many both old and young, many whereof were Quakers and Quakers' children. I have baptized whole Families of them together. I have dayly additions to the Congregation and some who were my greatest Enemies, and most bigott Quakers have now come over and joynd themselves to our Communion and given in their Names and are Members of the Congregation; and this is my greatest Comfort that my weak Labours are blessed for other I have not many. I have the love of the people and there is not one Quaker in the County but what receives my visits very kindly, and is Civil but the people are very poor, I have never received one farthing for all I have done; I still remember your Christian advice not to ask nor impose upon yquug converts which, if I should, it would be of sad consequences for several, nay, many do object against paying Ministers Benefices: to comply with whose weakness, I have not taken as yet, no, not for Marriages because, If I should, they would go to a Justice of the peace for Marriage where they have it for nothing. But I hope they will do something after this and if they do not, I am not able to live on what I have from England. I know many have a good will, and would do if able, But they sustained a great Loss in these parts, first, by a great storm, and then a Murrain among their Cattle. But I have Comfort that the Congregation grows still more Numerous and tho I wrote to you to obtain for me a Liberty to remove from the place, I now Incline to try it a little Longer till I try if my health will continue for it is now indifferent good, for the people say they will not allow me to remove.

Sir, I was Invited by the Gentlemen of the next County (viz) Sussex, and upon their desire I went and preached at one Cap^m Hil's house, then at Lewis Town, and on a third time in another place; and I find them all in General inclined to the Church of England (tho' an Irish Presbyterian has preacht there some years) and after Conversation with them, they joyned in an address to my Lord of London for a Minister, and sent it up after me to be sent for England with the same Care I did my own w^{ch} I have. I was desired by them to write to my Lord of London concerning the place and their need of one to watch for their Souls. The place is pleasant, the people (tho' not very Rich as what both Counties are) yet extraordinary Civil and well affected; and promised me that they would do what they were able to help and encourage a Minister as far as their Circumstances will allow: and now are falling about Building a Church. I mention this to you because I know growth in Religion is acceptable News to you and then when anyone is proposed for this Place you, according to your wonted Zeal for the propogation of the Gospel, may forward his Mission; the place exceedingly wants and lyes out of the way of all supply. I am the nearest in this Provençe, tho' I am about 50 or 60 Miles Riding. I yet ask that your wonted zeal for pious Men may be in this Mission, for, if he be not a Man of Religion, St. Paul's gifts here will not convert or gain one Soul from their Errors of Life.

Sir, I hope the Reverend Mr. Talbot has given you some more information of that Gentleman's life and conversation that I mentioned to you and whose Mission you stopt last year. I ask pardon for this Trouble which, with my acknowledgement of and hearty thanks for all your favours to me, with my Prayers for yourself and society, is all from

Rev^d Sir,
Your humble Servant,
THOMAS CRAWFORD.

P.S.

Sir, Tho' I think I have here several good men yet as in all places I have many that notionly dissent but are Irreligious and openly profane, to stop which, we are Erecting a society for the Reformation of Manners which I hope will do some service, we have already brought some to punishment.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

PENSIL^A, NEWCASTLE, May 17th, 1706.

HON^D SIR,

You'l easily pardon my freedom in writing to you when you consider that it is no more than what you enjoyed me before I came from England.

To Present you with a general view of the state of the Church in this Province is that which I think you have from better hands and Persons who have lived here longer than I have done. However I would venture to deliver my mind on that Subject too, were it not that my Reverend Brother M^r. Evans (whose fidelity in his Ministry, and good reputation in those parts has rendered his acco^t very authentic) is able by word of Mouth to give you a clearer and more succinct relation than my weak Judgement can pretend to. We have many Opposers, both from without and from within; yet, blessed be God, we faint not, neither are we discouraged. There are but few Church people here, I mean in this town, many hereabouts being of a long time led away by dissenting Ministers. The Presbyterians have a meeting in Town, and the Annabaptists have another in the Country. I hope the hon^{ble} Society will see how necessary it is to see this place provided with a fixed Ministry. I delivered my mind in what particularly relates to myself in my letter to M^r. Hodges, and likewise I have recommended to my Brother Evans to show the Society my present circumstances. I shall not trouble you with an acco^t of this matter, since M^r. Evans can do it perhaps to your Greater Satisfaction, and I firmly rely on your kindness, that you will further whatever may tend to my quietness and encouragement in this place. Wishing your prosperity, I am,

Honoured Sir,

your humble Servant,

GEO. ROSS.

Rev^d Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEWCASTLE, JULY 19, 1708.

* * * You signify in your postscript that the Society expects an account of the contributions that I receive from the Government or Inhabitants of the place where I am settled. There is nothing provided by Law for the maintenance of the Clergy in this province, and as to the Subscriptions of my hearers, I received about £15 Sterling yearly since I settled among them, which is so far from being any considerable encouragement where a Minister pays £30 a year for his accommodations a year, besides his accidental charges, that were it not for the benevolence and bounty of a certain Gentleman whose Son I teach in the Latin tongue, I could hardly live in the place so long. I find by your second letter that my apologetick Letter of 17th May, 1706, gave offence, in that I apologised for my freedom instead of excusing my silence; if I have addressed you without a due sense of my distance, I am sorry for it; and as to my silence, I do not remember that I neglected to write home as often as an opportunity offered from Pennsylvania. As to my deputing Mr. Evans to inform you of the state of my flock by word of mouth, I intended no more than a relation of those minute things which might have escaped my representation in my letter, and you might be desirous to be satisfied about. The best apology I can make for this oversight is to give you the following account of the present state of the Church in this place. The congregation here is not now so large as before, through an Epidemical sickness that has of late been very rife in this place; the distemper being so mortal that few escaped that were taken ill of it. There are not a few, blessed be God, that adorn their profession by a suitable deportment, that do "worthily in Ephraim," * zealous sons of the Church and constant frequenters of the Holy Communion: to which to persuade men, is the hardest task of the Sacred Ministry in these parts. The country people that live back from the town of New Castle make up a considerable part of this Church, who though they are a

* Ruth, iv. 11.

great way off from the Town, some above 12 miles, yet they seldom miss to come to Church when there is no Sermon in the Country. They are generally zealous men and of substantial piety. The Church is quite finished, by the unwearied diligence and liberal contributions of several gentlemen in the place, particularly M^r. Rich^d Hollywell, M^r. Jasper Yeats, and M^r. James Coutes, men of good note. It is a fair and stately building, and one of the largest in this Government, and what contributes very much to its beauty, it is adorned with Her Majesty's Bounty as well as other Churches in these parts, namely, a fair pulpit Cloth and Communion Table Cloth. The Dissenters in Town, being for the most part Presbyterians, are of late better reconciled to the Church than they were when I first settled here. Several persons of that persuasion, who sent for me in the sickly times, declared their sincere love for the Church, and firm resolutions to continue in its Communion if God should be pleased to restore them to their health. It were to be wished that the Judgement of dying men in the case of separation from our Communion might move others thoroughly to examine the grounds of their division, and so live as many wish they had done, when they come to die.

M^r. Black and M^r. Jenkins have been here to wait upon the Governor. They are very deserving persons, and will, I hope, answer the expectations of the Honorable Society. M^r. Nichols has left Chester and gone to settle in Maryland, upon what motives is best known to himself. 'Tis a pity the place should be left desolate. I shall not be wanting in what I am able to supply it until there is care taken of it at home. I have nothing further to offer to the consideration of the Society, but my hearty request for their prayers that the Glory of their noble undertaking may never be sullied by the miscarriage of any of those weak Instruments that they are pleased to employ on so great a design as the Salvation of men's Souls. I am, Sir,

Your most humble Serv^t,

GEO. ROSS.

Rev^d Mr. JENKINS to the Secretary.

NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA,
26th Aug^t, 1708.

SIR,

In obedience to yours and the Honorable Society's commands I have taken care to begin my correspondence with you from abroad by the first opportunity; after eleven weeks sail from Portsmouth we arrived at Virginia the 26th of May last, 1708, and for want of a convenient passage from thence to Philadelphia, we were detained there 5 weeks and at last having no prospect of any fairer opportunity, we hired a Boat for eight pound ten, to carry us with our effects to Bohemia landing which is a part of Maryland and borders upon the province of Pennsylvania and lyes within 70 miles of Philadelphia. The very first night we came to Bohemia we met there with his Honor Colonel Evans, Governor of Pennsylvania. After we had paid him our respects and I had delivered him my Letters of recommendation to his Honor's countenance and favour, understanding my mission was for Appoquiminy, his honor told me that he wondered the people of that place would presume to petition for a Minister to themselves being so few and inconsiderate a remnant, not above five settled families upon the Creek, and withall added, he was sorry it was my chance to be sent amongst them. The next day his Honor desired Mr. Black and I to bear him company to New Castle, the second town in the province which lyes very near the sea, upon the mouth of the River Delaware, 40 miles below the City of Philadelphia, formerly a place of great trade and still has some vessels belonging to it most of the Inhabitants being Merchants here. In the Town of New Castle we met with the Reverend Mr. Nichols, late minister of Upland in Chester, with his wife, his servants, and all his effects, going to Maryland to settle himself minister of some country there. Upon this vacancy at Upland I had several pressing invitations to come to Chester from the Churchwardens and the best gentlemen there. I answered them I was not in a capacity to accept of any such proposals, though very encouraging, except upon some more than ordinary occasions, I should be necessitated to leave ~~Appoquiminy~~ ^{Appoquiminy}. After Mr. Black and I had preached once before his Honor at New Castle, I went the following week to Appo-

quiminy, and waited upon one Captain Cautwell, the only person of any note or reputation in the place. He received me very kindly and was willing to lodge and diet me at his house, but it was so small that he could afford me no retired room to myself, nor was there any in Appoquiminy that could better accommodate me than he, his house being but twelve miles from the Church, and the rest for the most part some more miles distant. I preached there on Sunday and had a very large Congregation to hear me, most of them being led out of curiosity from neighbouring parishes, and above 30 were come from Maryland, out of the Rev^d M^r. Sewell's parish; however they seemed to be all very well satisfied in the Gospel doctrine I had entertained them with, but there was none of them, excepting three, M^r. Cautwell, M^r. Healey, and M^r. Dyer, that took any notice of me, or did once as much as bid me welcome to the place, yet notwithstanding their coolness and indifferency towards me, I still retained the same resolute purpose of continuing amongst them that I first had when I came from home, but going up again to New Castle the following week to meet with a Sweedish Minister, a very pious, sincere Christian, one M^r. Biork, I found then that The Reverend M^r. Ross, your late missionary to that town of New Castle, was removing from thence, and in supply of M^r. Henry Nichols had agreed to settle himself at Chester: When I had reasoned a little with M^r. Ross upon this sudden removal, he told me 'twas upon the account of his late marriage, not that he thought to better himself any thing through his Ministry at Upland, but that he had very promising hopes of getting his family a better maintenance there by keeping a Boarding School, having several Children promised him from Philadelphia. I being in Town when M^r. Ross acquitted himself of his charge here, the Church Wardens and Vestrymen had a meeting and drew up a general petition to me, desiring me to reside among them and take care of their Church, which they had by such great charge been so long a finishing; otherwise, though but just now finished and many did daily join with her communion, yet if left in this desolate and destitute state, it would be the absolute ruin of her, adding as they have already represented to My Lord of London, that the Presbyterians having built a very spacious meeting house in the very face of their Church, they would soon make havoc of her by proselyting the greatest part of their Congregation, consisting most of country people, which, being illiterate, are as yet hardly principled in the true Christian, Apostolical Church, and its Gospel Doctrines, and would be soon carried away with every wind of

Doctrine. With this, at the same time, I received a very pressing Letter from his Honor, the Governor of this place, wherein he urged me by all the tenderness and compassionate regard we owed to the infant distressed Church of Christ in general in those parts, that I would take particular care of this in New Castle, and assist the people of Appoquiminy as frequently as I could, adding withall in great sincerity that by all the power and authority that was imposed in him, he would see this Church at New Castle supplied before any other, assuring me if I stayed here His Honor's particular favor and all the good offices he could do me. Yet before I would settle anywhere but where by my mission I was particularly directed, with all this I thought it very proper to consult Colonel Quarry, as I understood him to be a Member of your Corporation, so that his approbation concurring with the reasonable motives before offered, together with the sense and conscience I had of my duty to God and his Church in general, prevailed upon me (I hope not without a happy providence of God) to fix myself at New Castle in hopes of My Lord of London's future approbation and the rest of the Honorable Societies.

I have since my settlement here frequently offered my service and ministry to the people of Appoquiminy, to preach to them constantly upon one Sunday in the month and if they would meet me once a fortnight upon week days; but I have not been able to persuade them yet to accept of this, for they imagine that I am under such special bonds and obligations to serve them in my Ministry, and none else but them only, that if I don't live with them they have made no scruple to tell me, that they will complain to the Honorable Society, and make them withdraw their bounty from me. I suppose you have heard from them before now, but upon the whole of what they say, whatever may be the Society's opinion of me, I have this much to say for myself, that I thank the Almighty God (with sincerity be it spoken) I have a good conscience on my side for what I have done, and hope for acceptance from God in particular for the care I have taken of this Church at the present juncture when left destitute and exposed to the rage and scorn of all scismatics, particularly of those numerous crowd of Heathen called Quakers, who would make many a triumphing acclamation over her Distress, ridicule her primitive, ancient ceremonies out of countenance, and trample her wholesome doctrines under feet, when there was no Priest left within her gates to stand up and preach repentance, faith and Salvation in Christ Jesus, God manifest in the flesh, whom I have heard them positively deny. What would signify our

Church when there was none left within her to bear his Christian testimony against those dark benighted and deluded souls that deny the saving faith, and are worse than infidels. Sir, could you frame in your mind, any idea of the fractious nature and circumstances of this place, it would soon incline you to believe what I so clearly see, that if this Church had but wanted a Minister for one half year, without a special providence and preventing Grace of God, it would not have been above three that would sincerely be of her Communion, whereas we have now some hundreds in the Town and Country, that are of the Church of England, which by reason of the vast distance many of them live from the Town they cannot every Sunday give their attendance at the Church, but I meet them about half way in the Country, about 12 miles from the Town, once a fortnight to preach to them and catechize their Children, and in the last and second meeting I have had with them our congregation consisted of fourscore people, and many of them were Welch with whom I have also agreed to have a meeting every three weeks amongst themselves in the Welch Track (as it is here called.) The Welch consist here in this County of New Castle, and bordering upon it, of about 40 family's, being for the most part deluded and drawn away by Scotch Presbyterians, and a Welch Annabaptist Preacher, so that ever since their first settlement in this Country they have been divided into three parties, an Annabaptist, a Presbyterian, and a Quaker Congregation, and no wonder there is such a division amongst them since they never had a Church of England Minister amongst them that could preach to them in their own Language, most of them understanding no other. They have to this time lived groping in the dark for want of the Gospel Doctrine delivered them in its natural light and purity. I therefore design to spend much of my time and pains upon them in order to reclaim them from those pernicious errors, and I am already thus far encouraged that the Annabaptist preacher has promised to resign up his Meeting house to my service, and has declared himself to be one of my constant hearers, for he can neither read nor understand any other language, but the British, which he has to great perfection, but being likewise as well acquainted myself with my mother tongue as I am with any other, I hope, with the blessing of God, upon my endeavors, I shall be able to do much good among them, and in my first six months account to give you a very comfortable relation of the successful progress of the Gospel through my Ministry amongst them.

I hope for the Honorable Society's favour and approbation, upon what I

have here offered with respect to what I have already done, and what is my design to do further in this great work they have thought fit to employ me in; and I hope that as long as I shall retain my Christian principles within me or any just sense or regard to the great charge of the weighty errand I am sent upon, I shall never, by God's Grace do anything but what in some measure may prove answerable to the purity of your good intentions in sending me, being conscious to myself that I am not only accountable for what I do to that happy number of good men, the venerable corporation from whom I am sent, but must be more strictly so to the great Bishop and Shepherd of our Souls, when I must stand in Judgment before him at the latter day. And that not only my reputation lies at stake at home with some of the best men, but my eternal well-being hereafter in another state does more immediately depend upon my faithful discharge of my ministry. I pray God to give me sincerity in what I say, with his grace to act and do accordingly, that I may always bear the character of, Sir,

Your faithful missionary & humble serv^t,
THOMAS JENKINS.

P. S. As for the Church Books that were given for Appoquiminy Church, and the Library allowed for my own use, I have carried them with me, because the nature of my obligation was, in case of my removal to leave them to the succeeding Minister or Church Wardens, but there being neither of them, I presumed to keep them by me till further order from the Society how to dispose of them, and that I shall be sure to comply with. I am willing to let the Church Books remain in the Church if they would accept of my service there to read Prayers and preach to them as often as I can till they have another Minister sent them, but this they will not accept of. I desire, therefore, your opinion and direction what to do in this Case, as soon as you can.

Rev^d Mr. RUDMAN to the Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, 26th Aug^t, 1708.

SIR,

My long silence in writing has been occasioned by several accidents. Having got now a fair opportunity I shall lay down some remarks of Mr. Evans's proceedings with me, and state the case of Trinity Church in Oxford. I served that Church almost three years before I knew of that Christmas mentioned in your Letter, for which service I have had P^r Bills Sixty two pounds Sterling, and out of that money I paid M^r. Chubb for half a year's service fifteen pounds this Country money, and to Michael Booth five pounds seven shillings, an old contracted debt, for Ceiling the Church, which debt nobody would contribute any thing towards, but would lay hold of the Bounty of the Queen, to wit, the Lead and the Glass that was sent over and sold here for ten pounds to the use of the Church, which rather than I was willing to consent to, I paid that debt out of my own pocket.

✓ I tried at the first to walk to the Church and backward, being eighteen Miles, but I quickly found my strength would not hold out, therefore I hired a Horse in Town, which was very chargeable and forced me to buy me one of my own. Now, Sir, I desire you to cast up these things and consider them, and you will undoubtedly conclude that it hardly has been Water and Bread for my family to live on by so small a revenue. In consideration her of, when Mr. Evans was preparing himself for England I thought it was the best opportunity I ever could meet with (he knowing my services and circumstances as well as I myself); with his instigation therefore I drew a Bill upon the Honorable Society for £50 sterling, delivering it into his hands, upon Condition and promise that he should deliver it to nobody, but to the Treas^r Mr. Hodges; if answered well and good, if not answered then to send it me back without any molestation or further trouble; but my simplicity was deceived, for no sooner Mr. Evans came to Virginia, but he sold my Bill and took money for it, and in London dwindled the case so that under a special favour towards me he did extricate himself, and put my feet in the same fetters in which they were before, for I understand that I must work for a dead horse for almost two years

together. This has occasioned me to leave Oxford, and resign the place up to Mr. Chubb, and never to have to do with it any more.

I am a sickly man, and now for seven weeks together in a consumption; I have buried lately one of my daughters and most that come to see me give me up for a dead man which I do believe also: If I should die this time, what a miserable family should I leave behind me, a helpless widow and two poor small children which cannot procure a farthing to pay the protests.

Now to conclude: considering what is said I will rather hope that the Honorable Society will extend their favorable pity and compassion on me, than expect disheartened words and hard answers, and so I remain

Your's and the honorable Society's

most humble and dutiful Serv^t,

ANID. RUDMAN

Rev^d Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

CHESTER, 28th Aug^t, 1708.

SIR,

I wrote to you not long ago by Captⁿ Hammerton of Pennsylvania, and in my Letter endeavoured to lay before you a full and succinct account of the state of the Church at New Castle, where The Rev^d Mr. Jenkins now serves, I having removed to Chester upon Mr. Nichols's going to Maryland. I acquainted you in my former Letter of my design of leaving New Castle, but I expected that what in a great measure forced me to remove would have been redressed. But upon Mr. Jenkins's deserting Appoquiminy, the place he was sent to, my people took less notice of my grievances and grew careless of redressing them, in hopes that, if I should remove, Mr. Jenkins would settle among them, without insisting on such things, which I demanded in order to live comfortably in the place. All that I requested of the Churchwardens was this, that since the Congregation was pleased to subscribe some small encouragement for my maintenance in the place, and that now I had a family which I must take care to provide for, they would be so kind as to allow me a convenient house and to collect what the hearers were pleased to subscribe and con-

tribute towards my subsistence; the Church Wardens not willing to take that trouble upon them, and understanding that my Brother M^r. Jenkins was fond to settle there, upon his abandoning his proper charge, they neglected and postponed to give me any satisfaction, being assured I would not insist upon any such thing. ✓ The principal men of the Church at Chester, hearing of my design to leave New Castle, addressed me to stay among them in M^r. Nichols' place, which I condescended at last to do, when the Church Wardens of New Castle plainly shewed they had no mind to do what was possible and easy for them to perform, and necessary for me in order to continue among them. New Castle is a place where everything is extraordinary dear, and a man that has a family cannot subsist upon the Society's Bounty of £50 per annum. I know that the Congregation there would have done anything for me that lay in their power, were it not that some who bore some secret grudge towards me, for not conniving at their scandalous practices, had too much influence upon one of the Church Wardens, and by their insinuations moved the Gentlemen to make no steps for my encouragement, but egg'd him to invite M^r. Jenkins, who was not so well acquainted with their manner of conversation. No man ever had, I thank God, the love and esteem of his people more than I had the affection and favor of those that loved goodness in New Castle, and I had not been obliged to leave them, had it not been for the carelessness and indifferences of some that were intrusted with the management of the affairs of the Church, and their unhappy easy tempers of being led away by those whose greatest calamity it is to hear the rebukes of a Clergyman. I hope the Society will approve of my removal, considering that it did not spring from choice but necessity. I have been forced to contract debts to maintain me at New Castle, and nothing but the contributions of the people or an augmentation of my salary would have saved me from contempt there, or running in debt which I should never be able to pay. What moved M^r. Jenkins to leave Apoquimo I leave it to himself to inform you about. I must confess, without incurring the censure of an Informer, that his conduct has few Vouchers here — his encouragement to settle there, and the large field he had, of reaping a plentiful harvest being great and worthy of his consideration; however I hope he may be very useful at New Castle, especially among his countrymen, who are settled near to that place, but disaffected to the Church. I cannot pretend to give you any account from my own experience of the Church at Chester, only that the Congregation is but small, which is owing, as far as I understand, to

those unhappy turns of affairs that happened in Mr. Nichols's time. I shall take care to write home a full relation of the state of this Church per first opportunity, being obliged to close at this time through the importunity of the Bearer. I am,

Sir,
Your most obliged & most humble Serv^t,
GEO. ROSS.

Rev M^r. CRAWFORD to the Secretary.

KENT COUNTY, DOVER-HUNDRED IN
PENNSYLVANIA, 31st Aug^t, 1708.

HON^d SIR,

Yours I received dated June 4th, 1707, per M^r. Talbot; wherein you desire frequent Letters; this I readily comply with, but I live in the Country where no ships come, and under a hundred Miles scarce can have a Letter delivered or put on Board of any Vessel, and then some misgive, and many opportunities slip when I know not or cannot wait on them. Next you blame me (or seem to do so) because my Vestry wrote home some of their own circumstances; it was their own notion to do so, and to deny the people a request that is harmless you lose their favour, and again I did readily comply with them because I thought their condition and circumstances might be as well received at their own hands as by my pen. Next you desire particular accounts from me according to a Scheme laid down by the Society, and to all the heads thereof; this I never saw. I never received any from any hand; I only conceive that those particulars following may be required, which I shall answer:

As to the number of Inhabitants in the County I know not; I never saw their Court Roll.

As to the number of my hearers, I sometimes have more, sometimes have less, according to the weather. I preach in the Church and two or three places more, the County being above fifty miles long; and those that are my hearers one day, not many are the next, and sometimes I have 30, 40, 50, 70, 100, 150

and upwards, may be 200, a great many whereof (I think) have some good tincture of Religion, at least of well meaning. But how many of them are (in omnibus) for the Church of England as by Law established there, I know not; some of them I know are of a dissenting temper in Government (which I do not admire, there being at my entry not one man in the County that understood the prayer Book, no, not so far as to answer the psalms or other parts of the Service till I taught them privately) but all are satisfied with the doctrine of the Church so that they have no grudge on that account; only when some itinerant Presbyterian Preachers come amongst us some make breaches to go hear them, for all their Sermons with us have been on Work days, but many will not, so that I have none but a heathenish people called Quakers (several thereof are come over) that absent from the Worship of God as opportunity offers, other opinions make no debate to hear me, but how many Quakers there is I know not, but if we had the Government established we should have power.

As for the number of Communicants, I have ordinarily above twenty or thirty odd, but never 40 in a day.

For the number baptized by me in other places I know not, but in my own charge I have, young and old, baptized 220 or 230. Married 22 couple these three years of my residence here; our justices do marry frequently here, because the Law allows.

As for my Order in preaching, I preach sometimes twice a week. I have occasionally thrice, but I never fail four times in three weeks, one Sunday in the upper end of the County; another in the Church; the third in the lower end, and then a week-day's sermon in some corner, and then the following Sunday in the Church, &c. I catechise the Children before the Sermon all the summer — cold weather I don't. This is as full, as true and just account as I can now give of the place (this accepted) that many well meaning people want Prayer Books very much, there being none in the County but what I give them, nor can we have for money, and indeed many have not money to buy with, but of this I'll mind the Treasurer.

As to the order of the Society, to give an account of those of my hearers that have contributed to build Churches, in a word, I know not any has given one farthing to any but to our own.

As for their names that subscribe to me, and their sums, I have not the catalogue. I have seen it, but the Churchwarden has it, only I tell you that

you have all in that address for a minister to Dover Hundred sent to my Lord of London, which (if I remember) I delivered to the Society, and several of the best of those are dead, in whose place I have this year, not before, got some small subscriptions, but our subscriptions in America are larger than our Benefice, but whatever the subscriptions be, this I can say, upon the word of a Minister, that these three years that I have been in this place, I have not had twenty pounds Pennsylvania Money per annum, which is but a small benefice, considering it is paid me, not in Silver, but as people are able, in Coin, &c. It is true there is more than £50 Pennsylvania money subscribed, but I cannot have it. Some are backward, many pretend they are not able the years are so bad, and to use the Law for it I never will, for that will frustrate my Mission and the designs of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, render my person odious to them, and so my ministry and preaching ineffectual, and I be looked upon as a hireling only; severe methods are not to be taken here to gain converts by. So whatever is subscribed is to no advantage to me while it is not paid, but what I receive you shall have a yearly account.

As for the Society for reformation of manners, I have done and still do encourage it; and indeed at my request it was erected, and first by my Vestry, whereof one Capt^a Rodeny, Justice of peace, was my principal assistant. The Methods are most partly taken out of the Book of the Society for reformation of manners, with some few variations, however. We punished all that offended, but now our Work is easy. Our meetings were once monthly, but now are quarterly, and then have little or no business, possibly not one found guilty in that time in all the County.

As for the Negroes I have been at pains, for I sometimes at the Church Porch taught them the principles of religion, though many are very dull, and when I am not employed I catechise the Children.

As for the Society's Instructions, I shall be glad to receive them; none shall be more observant than I, and for writing often, tho' I do, I understand my Letters do miscarry; so I hope if my Letters be not so frequent as other Missionaries, I shall be excused because I have not so good opportunities, and withall I have been sick spring and fall, not able to go abroad, but yet I understand that some of my Letters misgive, as also Letters from the Society (I fear) to me, for I have not had a Letter these two years, but by Mr. Talbot; nay, my Attornies Letters, many of them, never come to my hand, as I am informed by his last.

I have nothing new to suggest, but that I have nothing to intice me to this place, but the Sobriety of the people. This is all my comfort, others I have none, for many of the Comforts of life are very far withdrawn from me.

Sir, I trouble your patience no more, only I beg your prayers on the Church here and on me in particular, that I may be serviceable therein, and I pray God to bless you and all those Good and noble spirits that are employed in that Glorious Work of the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God himself strengthen you and incourage and bear you up in all difficulties. Excuse the length of this, from,

Honored Sir,
your assured friend and humble Serv^t
in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
THO: CRAWFORD.

SIR,

I would beg both your Letters and advice often if it be not too much trouble, and none shall be more observant. Mr. Black is sick of the ague, but his arrival has removed the charge of that place from my shoulders, which I undertook willingly for the good of the Church.

Rev^d Mr. EVANS to the Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, 7th March, 170^o.

MUCH HONORED SIR,

I take this first opportunity from Philadelphia to return my hearty thanks for the frequent demonstration you gave me at London of your favours to me, and to let you know that I shall always preserve a due sense of them. By the assistance of the Almighty Protector of Mankind we arrived safe at New York after a dangerous and tedious passage of eleven Weeks. My Lord Lovelace, who took particular notice of your kind recommendation, & gave me more marks of his favour than I could deservedly expect, preserved his health during our unpleasant voyage, but since our arrival at New York he fell very ill and continued so for some time; but is so far recovered of his indisposition as to be able to attend the first Assembly now sitting at Amboy in East Jer-

sey. The death of My Lord's second son since his arrival at New York is much lamented by his Lordship. I am very sorry to give you an account of M^r. Rudman's death, whose cure is supplied by M^r. Clubb, who gives good satisfaction to those people at Oxford, and to my certain knowledge the number of the people have increased since he entered upon that Cure, and by all that I can learn and the Character that his parishioners give of him, he is sober and diligent as you will find by their address to the Honorable Society ever since he entered on that Cure. But the School has not flourished under his care, especially since he served the cure of Oxford. Yet I must tell with great regret that M^r. Ross (of whom according to my opinion of the person at that time I gave the Venerable Society a good character) left his cure of New Castle and induced M^r. Jenkyns to leave Appoquiminy, who is now returned to his own cure since my arrival; what with the orders sent over by me to the Missionaries, and what with some arguments used with him, he is sensible that he was ensnared to disobey the orders of his superiors, and resolved for the future punctually to observe the Injunctions of the Venerable Society, whose pardon he humbly craves. He is very well approved for his preaching and Godly conversation, and has baptised and been instrumental to persuade several Quakers in this place to join with the Church of England. But M^r. George Ross, who began well, is far from being prevailed on by the Society's Order to keep to his own Cure; that he came to Chester upon M^r. Nichols' removal to Maryland, and has now after he has ruined two Churches, with great sorrow of heart do I speak it, a design of making a faction here, and to enter upon M^r. Clubb's School, before New Castle and Chester are provided for, and that he has obtained a Licence from my Lord of London to keep this School which is endowed by Her Majesty with £30 per annum: I have signified this to my Lord of London. I hope you will think of some suitable remedy to cure these growing evils, for I must do that Justice to God's Church whose cause I plead as to say that I believe the consequences of M^r. Ross's conduct will be more fatal to this province than that of the other Gentleman, you censured for entering violently into another Man's church; for how dreadful a consideration is it, that all those people must generally want the Ordinances of Christ and the Doors of two churches should be shut up and the money of piously disposed persons so misemployed that now all given to M^r. Nichols, his Mission, and that of M^r. Ross, are lost for those people that have been once of the Church, and many of them never rightly established in

their principles, will be irrecoverably lost from the Church of England. I cannot enlarge, the Ship's just falling down and being also obliged to go into the Country to preach. I rest with my profound regards to the Venerable Society, begging that when they address the Throne of Grace, they may pray God to prosper my Ministerial Function, who am,

Honored Sir,

Your most humble and faithful serv^t,

EVAN EVANS.

I have no time to have the Letter transcribed, being in extraordinary haste, which pray pardon.

Rev^d Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

CHESTER, 9th March, 1709.

SIR,

I took care to inform you long since of my removal to New Castle, and the reasons moving me to change my Station, since which time your Letter by M^r. Evans came to hand, together with some resolves of the Honorable Society. I cannot devine what weight my reasons may have with the Board, to justify my proceedings. But I am persuaded they will not judge me by a Law whereof I was invincibly ignorant; and most certainly I was of their Order, with respect to the removal of their Missionaries from the places they are sent to, when I left New Castle. Since M^r. Jenkin's return to Appoquiminy I received a Letter from the Church Wardens of New Castle with promises of encouragement. If they will redress my former Grievances I design by the Grace of God to go back to my former charge; but provided I do return and find the place still disagreeable to my constitution, and prejudicial to my health, I humbly desire that the Honorable Society would be pleased to allow me to settle in a more agreeable place, and not to confine me to a corner of the Country which has proved very hurtful to my person. The congregation at Chester is but small, some differences that happened among them in M^r. Nichols' time having rendered some members disaffected and created an aversion in others that were somewhat disposed to join with the Church. I can

safely say I have not been wanting in healing their breaches, while I have been among them, but what effect my endeavors have had in this Church, time will produce. The order of the Society, enjoining their Missionaries to give an exact and full account of their conversions of Heathens and Infidels, seems to be built upon a Mistake which lyes in this, but the Missionaries are supposed to preach to the *Indians* (for so I take the word Heathens). We are confined to some particular charges among the English Inhabitants who are generally seated on the front of the Country: whereas the Indians have their abodes a great way back in the Woods, so that we seldom see or converse with one another, unless it be when leaving their Winter Quarters they straggle up and down among the English plantations and villages to meet with a Chapman for their Burthen of Skins, or with a meal of Victuals; besides, few of them understand English, and we are altogether ignorant of their Language, for as we had it not when we came to America, so we are otherwise employed in the Country than to be able to learn Tongues, so that we are utterly incapable of giving them any notion of Religion; nay, laying aside this consideration of wanting their several tongues, those few that can talk a little English, have their understandings so strangely darkened (which is more dismal) in spiritual things that let a man beat his brains to make himself intelligible to them, he has just as little satisfaction as if he had discoursed some carved head. They are justly accounted politic and subtle in making Bargains; but abstracting from their worldly concerns, I aver they are *veluti pecora quæ natura prona atq; ventri obedientia finxit*; nay, as far as I could learn *nullum nomen inter eos inveni, quod animæ immortalitatem significat*. I will not say but those that are more conversant with them are able to give a better account of them. I would be understood to speak of them, not with contempt but with regret, and from my own observation.

I desire to know whether or not the Society expects from their Missionaries the names of those that have been reclaimed from immoralities by their Ministry; if they do, though I am unwilling to publish to the World who have been reputed immoral, yet you shall have a Catalogue of such persons, as soon as you please to require it.

This is all that occurs at present to,

Sir,

Your very humble serv^t,

GEO. ROSS.

Rev^d Mr. EVANS to the Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, 16th June, 1709.

HONORED SIR,

By a Brigatine that sailed from this place in March last I gave you an account of the Deplorable state of all the Churches from Appoquineminck to this place, occasioned by the ill conduct of M^r. George Ross, whom I formerly represented to the Honorable Society as a person of a laudable character, which to the great grief of all his Brethren, and all good men in this province, he hath unhappily forfeited by quitting his cure at New Castle, and removing to Chester which he is going to leave with a design to possess himself of the School of Philadelphia and a Lecturer's place in my Church; and he hath proceeded so far already as to be able to make a faction in this Church, willing to make subscriptions for his maintenance, who have contributed nothing towards my support since my return in December last. The Glory of God, and the good of his church, and the sense of my duty obliged me to oppose the unwarrantable measures taken by M^r. Ross, using all the means in my power to persuade him to return to his own Cure where the people offered him £60 per annum and a house, and in order to that I made a journey to Chester, where he lately resided, and admonished him to return to New Castle where the Honorable Society had first placed him; his answer was, *that they were hard Taskmasters, and that he intended to disengage himself from their service*, and since he had an account from Colonel Nicholson that his Salary was withdrawn, he is gone for Maryland, in order to offer his services there to one of their parishes vacant by the death of one M^r. Liliston, and, if he cannot make a better pennyworth, is resolved to return and to pursue his design upon the Church and School here. But I am resolved not to admit him to preach in my Church unless he be appointed my assistant by his superiors at home, which God forbid, for it would be a means to ruin this infant Church (for the service whereof I have exposed my life to many dangers), and the divisions would last here; for what reason can I have to believe that M^r. Ross will take any directions from me about the management of this Church, who would not obey all the Bishops and supreme Governors of the Church of

which your Venerable Society consists. If I can by exerting farther endeavours put a stop to his career, yet the misunderstanding between me, and that party that espouseth his Interest (one of which, though you may little expect it, hath had frequently the honor of sitting at your Board) will, I fear, prove hurtful to this Church; though I behave myself with all gentleness and meekness towards him and his abettors. Now, Right Reverend Fathers, Honorable Lords and Gentlemen, I am resolved as far as it lyes in my power to prevent any incroachment that he or any other shall make upon this Church, and at the same time treat my opposers with a Christian Spirit, and by the Grace of God give them no just advantage against me; make the glory of God, and promoting the Salvation of Souls committed to my charge, my chief aim, which will recommend me to the favor of God, and entitle me to your protection. Begging your prayers and directions for my future conduct, I remain, with all imaginable deference,

Your most highly obliged and Devoted Serv^t,

EVAN EVANS.

I think myself obliged to add something relating to M^r. Jenkyns, whose case is very different from that of M^r. Nichols and M^r. Ross, in whose vindication I have nothing to offer. At his first arrival at Appoquinimick, being young and short in his experience, he was imposed upon by M^r. Ross, who by proposing to him what great service he could do at New Castle, by the consent and advice of Colonel Quarry, who notwithstanding has since wrote against him to your Honorable Society and My Lord of London, complaining of a fault that the Colonel himself encouraged M^r. Jenkyns to commit, who, upon receiving your Orders, returned to his own appointed Cure, and expressed to me great trouble and sorrow for having disobeyed his Spiritual Governors, and giveth me reason to believe that he will exactly conform to your future directions, could he be but so happy as to be received to your favour, and thought worthy of your usual encouragement to other Missionaries. He is beloved by the people of his Congregation, and giveth them good satisfaction by his preaching and living, and did I not sincerely believe this I would not presume to recommend him to the Venerable Society. I have seen M^r. Clubb's case signed by the Members of his Congregation, and believe it to be true.

EVAN EVANS.

Vestry of New Castle, Delaware, to the Society.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW CASTLE ON DELAWARE,

17th October, 1709.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORS,

We received yours from the Secretary, p^r M^r. Keeble, dated 15th February, 170⁹, in answer to which we here send you a true and impartial account of what occurs to our memories in relation to the conduct of M^r. George Ross whilst our Minister, and the encouragement we gave him.

We subscribed towards his maintenance the sum of £50 p^r Annum, to be paid from the time of his arrival, during his continuance amongst us as our Pastor, which would have been enlarged had he duly attended his Ministry; but his frequent absence from his Church for the space of three weeks or a month at a time (without any supply, and once particularly the whole week next before Easter) occasioned several of his hearers to keep back the contribution they intended him.

As to a Vestry, we never had any, M^r. Ross seeming always averse to it; but during the time of his continuance here as our minister acted, in all matters relating to the church, according to his own pleasure without any interruption from us.

The opening of the church was done by the Reverend M^r. Rudman, late Minister of Philadelphia, and himself, and called by the name of Emanuel, without any notice thereof given to the undertakers for erecting the said churches or any of his Parishioners, and unknown to any of them before publication thereof.

His leaving us was sudden and surprising, and altogether without our consent, and notwithstanding our earnest solicitation for his stay amongst us, assuring him of all the encouragement we were able to give towards his maintenance (which would have amounted to more than his former subscriptions), he speedily removed to Chester, as Minister there. We afterwards entreated his return (as your Honors may see by the enclosed, which is a true copy, to which is added his answer); his demands we found to be large, and more than so small a congregation (considering their poverty and the charge they have been at in erecting a church, for which they are considerably in debt) were

able to comply with; nevertheless we assured him of £50 p^r annum, besides his house rent, which, with the Society's Bounty, we believed to be a sufficient maintenance for a minister here, or at least would have satisfied him till, by the encrease of his hearers, there might have been a new addition, which, in all probability, would soon have happened, many of the dissenting party being inclineable at that time to come to church; now, although he accepted of the above said offers and promised to return to his charge within six weeks, and in the mean time to supply the church constantly by himself or some other Minister, with which we were content, until we saw that he never designed to perform anything of that agreement with us, but contrary to all his engagements, removed from Chester to Philadelphia, to keep School, where he now is, to our great disappointment and discouragement, having thereby prevented and delayed us from giving your Honors an account of our miserable condition for want of a Minister.

And notwithstanding what we have above related, we must do him the justice to say (that whilst our Minister) his life and conversation was answerable to his sacred function, save only what we have before expressed.

We do sincerely assure your Honors of the truth of what we have above related, as to his conduct amongst us, without any aspersion on him.

We therefore pray your Honors to consider the state of our church, and that you would be pleased to send us a Minister of some years and experience in the affairs of the church that may, by his constant and steady attendance upon his church, be able to prevent unstable minds from wandering, and gain those who are moderate among the dissenters to allow of the church service and discipline, and be a constant support to us in all our spiritual necessities, our long want of the true established ministry giving us more than ordinary occasion for such a person, which, out of a due sense of our own wants, we humbly beg your assistance who hath been heretofore so kind to us.

Upon the performance of this our humble request we shall look upon ourselves bound to do our utmost for such a person, and shall as in duty bound ever remain,

Your Honors' most obliged, humble Serv^{ts},

RICHARD HALLIWELL, SAM: LOWMAN,
W^m TONGE, JOS: WOOD,
JN^o. & EDW^d JENNINGS,
W^m GENEST.

Mr. SINCLARE to the Bishop of London.

(EXTRACT.)

NEWCASTLE ON DELAWARE,

5th January, 17th.

R^t REV^d FATHER IN GOD,

May it please your Lordship,

As to the state of our church, my Lord, we still labour under considerable discouragements by the number of Dissenters who are too unhappily encouraged by our present L^t Governor, in so much that they grow more and more assuming, especially the presbyterian party.

The people here are generally poor, and what is much worse sadly indifferent in the great concerns of Religion; very backward in promoting the Interest of the Gospel, especially in giving due attendance on divine service on the week days, though frequently and in the most endearing manner I have, both in the house of God and their own houses, exhorted thereto, though on Sundays there are generally about 80 or 100 that frequent our church, and since I have been here I have baptized Six children, and administered the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to about 16 Communicants.

Yours, &c.,

ROBT SINCLARE.

Mr. SINCLARE to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEWCASTLE ON DELAWARE,

5th January, 17th.

WORTHY SIR,

As to our Society here and wellwishers to the church of England the number of those that are hearty are very few, and of pretenders not many, the generality of both very poor and of the latter sort very humoursome, so

that their subscriptions are to be esteemed very precarious, and cannot suffice to the maintenance of myself, much less support my family if transported hither.

Since my short stay here I have baptized 6 children, and three times administered the Lord's Supper, and on christmas day last there were 16 Communicants.

Worthy Sir, Yours, &c.,

ROBT SINCLARE.

Mr. SINCLARE to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE ON DELAWARE,

7th Dec^r, 1710.

HONORABLE SIR,

When I wrote to you last, as I then acquainted you, I was very much indisposed and continued so for some time after, so that I was not capable of exercising my sacred function; but when through mercy was recovered I soon to my grief found a deplorable breach among those that formerly were well wishers to our church, caused by the Reverend Mr. George Ross, his leaving them, and other measures he has since taken.

Besides, the Dissenting Interest is manifestly encouraged here, as is more fully by our vestry made apparent by their Letter to my Lord of London.

However, in this lamentable posture of affairs, with respect to our church, as in duty bound, I have been as active as I could, through God's assistance, to retrieve our reputation and heal our breaches; and blessed be God, with some comfortable success, and am in hopes ere long I shall be able to render a more satisfactory account of our church's recovery out of her (for some time) languishing condition.

I shall readily on all occasions maintain a free correspondence with the Honorable Society, and that the Almighty may reward yours' and the rest of its worthy members' pious endeavors for the propagation of the Gospel in these our (as well as other) foreign parts is the hearty constant prayer of,

Honorable Sir,

Yours, &c.,

ROBT SINCLARE.

Mr. ST. CLARE to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEWCASTLE IN PENNSYLVANIA,

30th July, 1711.

HON^{ED} SIR,

Since my recovery from that tedious illness, which for some time I laboured under, my labours have been attended with visible success, notwithstanding the huge multitude of dissenters that abound amongst us. At my arrival into those parts the congregation belonging to the Church of England was but very small, and those few of a Laodicean temper, so that even they lay exposed to be seduced by every wind of doctrine, which moved me to double diligence, insomuch that, thro' the blessing of God accompanying my poor endeavours, our congregation is wonderfully increased and stand well affected to our apostolic church.

Above twenty Quakers are come over to our church; besides, a great many who never professed any religion have attained to a true sense of religion and such a right apprehension of their duty as to join cordially in communion with us, resorting to the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, to the due partaking of which is annexed a promise of all the benefits of our Saviour's passion and resurrection. The number of communicants, which at my first coming did not exceed fifteen, is increased to forty odd; our church is a stately fabrick, but still in distress by reason of the poverty of the people; there is much wanting plate for the Communion Table, which we became humble Supplicants for to the Honorable Society, on whose bounty the flourishing state of our infant church doth depend.

As to what Newcastle contributes to the support of their Minister is but very mean, and will not tolerably subsist my family, which obliges me to live so remote from it and not entertain any thought of transporting them hither, which no doubt is a trouble to me, altho', indeed, the prosperity of the Church under my inspection doth more than recompence the loss I sustain that way.

To the Honorable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts:

The Humble Petition of John French and Samuel Lowman of the Vestry of the Church of Newcastle on Delaware in the Territories of Pennsylvania in America,

SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioner, out of a deep sense of the prejudice the Church labours under at present for want of a Minister to officiate, and being grieved at the ill-use the Dissenters make of such a vacancy, that Town being surrounded with all sorts and sects of them, and even many who are of our Communion too easily drawn from us, especially under such circumstances, and tho' your petitioners and the rest of the members of our Church are very ready and willing and always have been to contribute to the utmost of our power to the support of a Minister, yet we are few in number, and the most of that number in such narrow circumstances that the Honble Society's allowance, with what we can advance, is insufficient to maintain a minister, upon which account we have been very often desolated, and therefore apply to the Honorable Society, the worthy Patrons of our Holy Religion in these parts, not only for a Minister to be sent us as soon as possible, but also for an addition to the usual Salary, which we hope will prove the happy means of continuing the dispensation of the Gospel among us; and whereas the service of that cure is attended with more than ordinary difficulties, we humbly pray the Honble Society to take our case into their serious consideration, and to send us such a person as they in their great prudence shall think proper for us. We are humbly of opinion that the Rev^d M^r. Henderson, being a person of good character and particularly acceptable to our congregation, is capable of doing good service to our Church, and earnestly pray the Honble Society to order the said M^r. Henderson to reside amongst us.

All which, together with great want of Schoolmaster to instruct the rising generation, we presume to lay before the Honble Society, humbly intreating that of their usual bounty and charity they would relieve us herein, and their Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

JOHN FRENCH.
SAM^l LOWMAN.

Mr. HENDERSON to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, July 26th, 1713.

SIR,

You will find by my last, and the Letter from our Vestry, that I have used as much discretion as I possibly could in making my request to the Hon^{ble} Society for a Release from my Service in this place, which I hope the Honble Society will grant me as soon as may be, by appointing another to succeed me as soon as may be. I cannot in conscience leave it, till I have their answer, because it is a Town in which there is a large Presbyterian Meeting-house, whose Minister would make great advantage of such a vacancy, and therefore as I have joined with our Vestry in praying the Honble Society to appoint Mr. Ross to succeed me, so I renew my request here that the Honble Society would agree to it. He perfectly understands the Controversy between them and our Church, and has a considerable Stock of prudence to manage it. I hope the great desire our Congregation have for him will be a good argument to persuade that most worthy Society to Grant their request, which, if granted, it will be very necessary that the same allowance be given him that the Honble Society conferred on me, viz., Seventy pounds per annum; else he will be in a worse condition by far than he is in at present at Chester, for it is much more expensive living here than there. I hope, Sir, you will communicate this to the Hon^{ble} Society, with my resolution of remaining here till they send another. I only desire that my Salary be continued during the time of my abode here, and do not plead for the benefit of that standing order that says, Every Missionary that obtains leave from the Honble Society to remove shall be allowed a year's salary from the time of such Liberty obtained from that Board. I refer all other affairs to Mr. Evans, who is going home, and who can fully inform the Hon^{ble} Society, all matters relating to these parts, and am, with great respect,

Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JACOB HENDERSON.

Petition of Mr. BIORCK.

TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS:

The humble Petition of Ericus Biorck, clerk, late Minister of Christeen, in the Province of Pennsylvania,

SHOWETH:

That your Petitioner exercised his Ministerial function in that Province for seventeen years, and did upon all occasions promote the Interest of the English church to the utmost of his power, for which he refers the Honorable Society to his letters testimonial in the hands of the right Rev^d Father in God, the Lord Bishop of London. His sudden departure for Sweden puts him upon this humble address that the Honorable Society would be pleased, considering the narrowness of his present circumstances, to extend their bounty to him, that he may be enabled to transport himself to Sweden with his numerous family, no less than eleven in number.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

ERICUS BIORCK.

A Journal of Mr. ROSS'S Labours in the Gospel during his short stay in the County of Sussex upon Delaware.

NEWCASTLE, Aug^t 27th, 1717.

The Honorable Colonel William Keith, being minded to visit the lower Countries within his Governm^t, desired that I among others would accompany him in his intended Circuit; to which request I readily consented, being willing to embrace so fair an opportunity of making myself acquainted with the state of the Church in the County of Sussex, where I had never been, and supplying its present wants to my power.

Saturday, Aug^t 3, 1717.—His Honor the Gov^t, being attended by several Gentlemen & myself, set sail from Newcastle for Lewis Town in Sussex, which lies upon one of the Capes of the River Delaware.

Monday, Aug^t 5th, we arrived at our destined port.

Tuesday, 6th.—I attended the Governor to the Court House of the said County, where I read divine service, the Justice of the County, with many others, being present.

Wednesday, 7th.—Service being read in the said Court House, I preached on these words, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." The house was full of People, and many hearkened at the doors and windows. They had not an opportunity of hearing a Minister of the Church a good while before, and therefore the diligent attention they gave to my discourse was the less surprising. I was obliged to dismiss the Congregation before I could proceed to administer Baptism to those many that came there to receive it, lest, by taking up too much of the Governor's time, I should prove a hindrance to him and the Justices in the dispatch of Business.

The number of Children and Infants baptized this day was thirty.

The Zeal & affection of the people of Lewis Town for the Church has appeared so great of late that they have pitched upon a sober person among them to read prayers to them every Lord's day, which he does with so great applause, that the Congregation he supplies as a reader doth visibly increase every sabbath. Mr. Brook, Collector there, a good Zealous churchman, supplies him with Sermon Books, wherein the said Reader reads, much to the satisfaction of the people. This method I could not but approve of, and recommend, in their present Circumstances.

Friday, the 9th.—I preached again, the words I insisted were, "and Behold one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may inherit Eternal Life." The Governor and a greater auditory than I had formerly were present. I baptized one and twenty.

Saturday, 10th.—The Governor, being about to leave the place, in order to visit Kent County, I set out before him to a place of worship about 16 miles off from Lewis Town. This place is a small Building erected by a few well disposed persons, in order to meet together there to serve God according to the way of the Church of England. They pursue the same methods here that the Church people do at Lewis, and 'tis well they do, for otherwise the Dissenters would make havock of the Church, and insensibly gain the People in

general over to the meeting; they are seldom or never without a supply of Teachers whom the people, though Churchmen by profession, are soon prevailed upon to follow when the Church service is quite disused and laid aside among them.

This falling away is very much prevented in this County by the help of those Readers who minister now among the people.

Here I baptized five and twenty.

In this place some adults made application to me for Baptism. But upon trial of their sufficiency I found they could not be admitted at that time. However, that I might not discourage them in their good intentions, I gave them a promise of a speedy return among them, and exhorted them to prepare themselves in the meanwhile as the Church directed.

Sunday, Aug^t 11th.—I preached on Eccles 12: 1: to a very large audience in the upper parts of this County. Here's a Fabrick erected for a church, but far from being finished. But such as it is, it was of the late in dispute between the Church and the Presbyterians; for awhile the former made no use of it. This Encroachment coming to the Governor's ears, and remonstrated against the Guilty party as knowing well his honor's integrity and good inclinations towards the suffering church, thought it not convenient to insist upon their claim, and 'tis hoped will give themselves or others no further trouble about it.

Here I exhorted the people to copy after the Zeal and devotion of their neighbours, and to fix upon a reader to perform divine service among them till such time as they were provided with a Minister. I Baptized also children and Infants to the number of six and twenty.

Total of the Baptized in this County during my week's stay there is one hundred and two.

By this account it appears that the Churchmen in this County are a considerable Body of People, & endowed with no small zeal for their Church. They have had several visits paid them by the Rev^d M^r. Addams in mary Land, and there has been a presbyterian minister settled among them these many years, and yet their number is so great and their affection to the Church so constant and unshaken, that, notwithstanding the Solicitations of the one to draw them away, and the opportunities the other gave them of having their Children legally baptized, no less than one hundred and odd were received into the Body of Christ church during the few days I continued among them.

They have drawn an address to my Lord of London for a pastor; pray God enable his Lordship & the Honorable Society to supply their present wants, and give a favorable answer to their unfeigned, I am persuaded, request and Petition.

POSTSCRIPT.—To the above account it may not be improper to add what concerns the state of the Church in the County of Kent, which Church the said Mr. Ross preached in on his return home from Sussex, as a continuation therefore of the Journal above specified, what follows is subjoined:

Monday, Aug^t 12th.—His honor the Governor arrived at Dover Hundred in the county of Kent.

Tuesday, 13th.—The Governor, according to his commendable practice in the town of Lowis, introduced the doing of Publick business with solemn prayers. Divine service being over, I gave notice that next day I intended, if it pleased God, to preach at the Church in the said County. Accordingly

Wednesday, 14th, I made good my word. The Governor & magistrates were present, but for want of timely notice being given the Congregation was not so numerous as might otherwise be expected. Here, upon the same account, I baptized but few (*viz*.) thirteen Children and one Adult.

The Inhabitants of this County were heretofore pretty unanimous; But being for some years left destitute of a Minister of the Church, many of them are gone over to the Presbyterian way, & have built them a meeting House which is monthly supplied by one Teacher or other of that persuasion. What influence such supplies may have at last upon those that adhere yet to the Church, God only knows, and a speedy dispatch of a minister amongst them can best remedy.

GEO: ROSS.

Mr. BECKET to the Secretary.

LEWES IN COM: SUSSEX SUPER,
DELAWARE, Sept^r. 1st, 1722.

SIR,

Having now been a year in my parish it may reasonably be expected by my Honorable patrons that I should send home an account of it, which I now do in obedience to their Commands, & according to the best observation I

am capable of making, and shall proceed to it in the method prescribed by the Honble Society in their Notitia Parochialis.

1. As to the number of Inhabitants of all professions in my parish (being the whole County of Sussex, which is 50 miles in length and 20 in breadth), I am not able critically to account for, only thus 'tis generally believed here that those who are Masters of Families, professing themselves members of the Church of England, are almost double the number of the presbyt^{ry}, and they treble the number of Quakers, whose interest here is very inconsiderable.

2. The number of the persons I have baptised here the last half year (adults & infants) is 48.

3. The number of adults baptised here this last half year is 5, 2 whereof are Mothers of several Children, each one white servant and two negro Slaves.

4. The number of Communicants at 2 of my Churches, where the Sacrament has been administered during the last half year, in all 20.

5. The number of those who are Masters of considerable families, most of them professing themselves members of the Church of England, 136; besides many single persons, servants and negroes, that constantly attend Divine Service.

6. The number of Dissenters of all sorts I imagine does not equal, or at most not exceed, the number of Conformists; here are but 3 or 4 families of papists in the whole country.

7. As to the number of Indian natives, it does not exceed 120; they have only a small Settlement on the utmost border of my parish where it adjoins to mary Land; they are extremely barbarous and obstinately ignorant of the Christian Religion; they have notwithstanding sometimes an idolatrous cantica of their own.

8. To speak in general of my parishioners, several seem to be reformed since my coming—these two, swearing and drunkenness, which for some years had been too Epidemical here, being now generally banished, and many become much more sober and serious. I need not mention the esteem my Hearers have for me, since that is kindly expressed, not only in a Letter of Thanks, writ of their own accord, and directed to the Honorable Society, which I hope ere this time is come to your hands; But also in their generous offers to induce me to stay among them, when they understood I was warmly solicited

to accept a vacant parish in Maryland, whose income is very considerable; and in gratitude I am bound to say I receive from them as many instances of their respect, as I expect, considering the meanness of their circumstances in a place but newly settled.

The frame of our Church in Lewes was raised on a high bank in the Centre of our Town, on the 6th of October last, and we hope to finish it the next Summer. The other two Churches we have raised at distant places in the parish, we have gathered some money towards finishing, and intend to fit them up with all convenient speed. Be pleased, good Sir, to pardon the prolixity of my account. I am, with all sincerity,

Sir,

Your most obed^t & most humble Servant,

W^m BECKET.

APRIL 6th, 1723.

P. S.—Be pleased to excuse me, Sir, for delaying this Account so long. My Parish is situate 160 Miles from Philadelphia, to which port we have rarely any vessels passing hence in the winter, so that I had no opportunity of sending this Letter to you till the Spring.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, 17th Sept^r, 1723.

SIR,

The Rev^d Mr. Hesselins waits upon the Society with the hearty good wishes of all his good brethren the Clergy in Pennsylvania, but of none more than myself, who have had the advantage as well as satisfaction of being his near neighbour for several years. He is a man of undoubted veracity, so that his account of Church affairs may be firmly relied on.

The Church at New Castle is environed with greater numbers of Dissenters than ever, by reason of these fresh recruits sent us of late from the North of Ireland. They call themselves Scotch Irish ignavum pecus, and the bitterest railers against the Church that ever trod upon American ground. I wish

I had better neighbours or keener weapons to stop their carreer. Bishop King's peices are found the most effectual to that purpose. It would be taken as a singular mark of the Honble Society's regard for this Church, would they be pleased to supply us with two or three dozen of the above great man's Books, concerning the invention of men; & with as many of the parts he wrote to maintain the said Book against one Boise. This would be a welcome present to a people who are threatened with an inundation of these fiery zealots, to give us laws & rule over us with a high hand. There has been no addition to our number of Communicants since Easter last, nor have I baptized any Adults save one in that time. I have no more to add at present, but that I have accustomed myself of late to preach twice on Sundays during the summer, and once in two weeks on a Litany day in the Country Church, that I might not be outstriped in diligence by those who would amuse the world by a more than ordinary application in Lecturing.

I am, Sir, &c,

GEO. ROSS.

*Members of the Church of England, in Kent County on
Delaware in Pennsylvania, to the Society, &c.*

OCTOBER 20th, 1723.

SHOWETH:

That whereas, we, your Petitioners, having at heart, above all other things, the honor of God and the salvation of our Souls, & for that end being very desirous that a sound and orthodox Minister of God's word might be sent to us, & settled among us, that so we might be the better instructed in our duty, & have the benefit of God's holy word and Sacraments duly administered to us — Did, about the space of 20 years ago, make our humble application to the Honble Society, and that our humble request had a Missionary sent over to us, the Rev^d M^r. Crawford, and again upon our humble address, some years after, another was sent over, the Rev^d M^r. Henderson, who left us Anno 1711. The occasion of their departure from us having been particularly reported to the Honble Society at the times when they severally left us, We humbly suppose that a repetition at this time is unnecessary. But so it is,

that since that time we have been wholly destitute of a sound & faithful Minister of Jesus Christ, & a great number of our people are by this means gone over to the Presbyterians & Quakers. Our house for religious worship, built for the service of the Church of England, is empty. Meeting houses are full, enthusiasts abound, the Sabbath is prophaned. The interest which the Church of England once had here is in great danger to be entirely lost, and we, your said humble Petitioners, have no opportunity to worship God publicly, in a manner agreeable to the word of God and our own consciences. Wherefore we, your Lordship's most humble Petitioners, the subscribers, do most earnestly request, if your Lordships will be pleased graciously to consider this our desolate condition, & to send us, with what convenient speed may be, a Priest of the Church of England, to instruct and edify us in the most holy faith of our Lord & Saviour Jesus; and we humbly request that the Honble Society will be kindly pleased, of their own wonted goodness, in consideration of our poor & low estate, to bestow on us such Missionary in their accustomed bounty; and we do promise hereby that we shall be ready and willing to contribute to the better support of such Missionary, according to the best of our abilities, to express our utmost gratitude for so desirable a blessing.

And your s^d Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Mr. BECKET to the Secretary.

LEWES NEAR CAPE HENSLOPEN,

May 19, 1724.

SIR,

In my last, which I know not whether you received or not, I made bold to assign the reason why it's not in my power to write to you every half year, as I ought. Our great River Delaware, being shut up in winter, & this Town where I reside, being 160 miles from Philadelphia or New York (both equal distant from this place), I have seldom any safe opportunity to send away my Letters for London but in the Summer season. I received a Box, with Prayer Books, Catechisms, & a Cambridge Concordance, in Oct^r last, by Capt^r Rich-

ards, for which very great & seasonable favor my vestry & self desire hereby to return our most humble thanks to the Honble Society.

The number of persons baptized in my Parish for the whole year past (viz), from March 25th, 1723, to 1724, according to my Register, are 82, about 11 or 12 whereof are adults.

In my Journey last October, to a Convention of the Society's Missionaries at Chichester, I preached a Sermon in the County of Kent (as I constantly do when I pass that way), where they have a large church but no minister. There I baptized 21 persons in one day (besides several at other times), 15 of which number were children & 6 adults. I had a very numerous congregation, & a petition was then drawn up to the Honble Society to request a Missionary for that place, a copy whereof has been transmitted to you, & I suppose you'll receive it with this Letter. I must beg of you to excuse the copies not being attested by the Prothonotary of Kent County, from whence the Petition comes, he being a Quaker, & it was thought might make some difficulty of it; ~~therefore~~ the Petitioners had recourse to the officer in our County, who is of our own persuasion. There is very great want of a Missionary in that County, there being a great number of people who join heartily with the Church of England, & such as I am well persuaded would contribute liberally towards the support of a minister. Others there are who have been of all religious persuasions, but now I think I may say are of none, & therefore still have more need of an instructor.

We have almost finished the building of our church in Lewes. Divine service has been performed in it ever since the beginning of this year. I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that tho' we have now 3 churches in County, yet none of them will contain the hearers that constantly attend the church service. People at this season of the year make no account of riding 20 miles to church, a thing very common in this part of America, which is sufficient to shew that our people have a great value for the favor of the society, and that our labour in this distant part of the world is not in vain. I have no more to add at present, but

I am, Sir,

Your most ob^t & most humble serv^t,

W^m BECKET.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEW CASTLE, 4 June, 1725.

SIR,

After I had read yours of 25 Aug^t last, I was pretty confident the Books you mentioned in your Letter were on this side the main, but when I enquired I was soon convinced. I hoped in vain, so that as to any help at present, to enable me to deal with gainsayers, I find myself where I was, saving your good advice, which I shall carefully observe in my endeavors to secure peace and unity in the great mystical body. The copy of minutes herewith enclosed I humbly offer to the perusal of my Honorable Superiors, to satisfy them where I alternately serve the Church, and why I have partly resolved to preach at New Castle but every 3. Sunday. The People here, in whose bounty I have but a small share, think I do them an injury because I preach any where else on Sundays, alleging that I am allowed a Salary from home merely to serve them. On the other hand, I made bold to acquaint them that if they take no more care to support me then they have done heretofore, they have no right at all to my service. To make this assertion good, I laid before them a Copy of what you wrote to the Church at Apoquinimink. Now, whether they or I have the right side of the Argument, I appeal to you, and beg your resolution by the first opportunity. To speak frankly, Sir, were it not for some assistance I have for serving a small parish in Mary Land, on the confines of New Castle County, I could not possibly stay in this penurious Town, and if the Honorable Society will think fit to confine me and my service to New Castle, 'tis more than probable I shall be forced to follow their late Missionary, M^r. Humphreys, who was drove from Chester by the inhuman neglect of his Parishioners. In my Mary Land cure, there is an apparent reformation. The people are become sober and serious, however remarkable they were formerly for their unbounded latitude. When I officiate at New Castle, I commonly preach twice a day on Sundays, or otherwise in the afternoon. I catechize, according to Doctor Beveridge's Method, and sometimes when I have none to catechize, I presume to explain, without using notes, some portion of the 1st or 2nd Lesson, which, being a practice among our

Dissenters, serves to cool their prejudices, if not totally to reconcile them to the Church; especially considering that I am fixed where, to speak without Book is looked upon by many to be absolutely necessary to edification. The greatest number of those who communicate at Emanuel Church, at New Castle, are livers in the Country, who have built Saint James Chapel, in their own Neighbourhood. Here I have served on work days for some years, but now, since your Letter to Apoquinemink has come to their knowledge, they insist upon my coming among them on the Lord's day, promising to answer the expectation of the Venerable Board. I have actually given them some hopes of complying with their request, but with the utmost submission to my superiors, leaving it to them to direct me in this point, as I shall seem to them most convenient. But, at the same time, I beg leave to say that where my Mission is attended with greatest success, and my labors meet with the truest regard, there I humbly conceive I may, within my proper bounds, most cordially as well as most frequently exercise my ministerial Function.

I am, Sir, Your most Obed^t Serv^t,

GEO^E ROSS.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEW CASTLE, Oct^r 9, 1725.

SIR,

In your Letter of 25th Aug^t, 1724, you was pleased to tell me that the Honorable Society had ordered 3 dozen of the Inventions of men, &c., and as many of the defence of that Excellent Book, to be sent to me, for which favor I return them my very hearty thanks. I am now to acquaint you that I have received the complete number of the Inventions, &c., you mentioned, but not one of the defence. This I suppose proceeded from an oversight in those to whose care this affair was committed, and will, I hope, be redressed by the first opportunity. As a motive to this, permit me to observe to you, that many under my care, especially in the Country, are very much strengthened and confirmed in their affection to the Established Church since the Society's present has been distributed among them, and particularly

that upon my laying before them what the Bishop had said upon frequent communion. I had the next Sacrament day about 30 Communicants, whereas, except on extraordinary times, I rarely have not above the half of that number. The truth is, since that useful Book is come among us, the chace is turned, and the zeal of our Dissenting Brethren, or more truly, their malicious clamors, are insensibly abated. We hear no more of their Scotch-Irish champions, who can no more stand before our Venerable Authors than Dagon before the ark. The church in this place is put in some good repair, and were it not for a leading Man, a Colonel, who is disoblged because I refused to give him the Sacrament but according to the rules of the Church, the state of Religion here would have a more promising aspect, and I myself should have less reason to complain of the slender provision that is made by my hearers in this Town for my support. Among them I serve, now and then, a Neighbouring Church in Maryland. This they find fault with, and I am willing to mend the matter, provided they'l allow me something for my subsistence while I am employed wholly in their service. A Letter from you to admonish them of their duty towards the Missionary may be of singular use to me, and make me easy in the Mission, wherein I have served now above 20 Years.

I am, Sir, Your most humble Serv^t,

GEO^d ROSS.

Mr. ROSS'S History of his Church at New Castle.

March 1st, 1727.

The three Countys of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex, upon the River Delaware, are a distinct Colony from the Province of Pennsylvania, having their own General Assemblys, annually chosen to Enact Laws in conjunction with their Governor, who has his Residence in the Province, as the chief and most beneficial part of his care & government. In the said three Counties, New Castle is the chief and best Town, & most commodiously situated for Trade and Navigation. It stands upon a pleasant eminence, and is found, of late years, to be both healthy and agreeable, & in summer is preferable to

any upon Delaware, for its coole and refreshing Breezes—an advantage it owes to its being nearer the sea, by 40 miles, than the so much talked of Philadelphia. New Castle, a little while ago, was dignified with the Immunities & privileges of a City, but the worthy & Honble person, Sir William Keith, Baronet, who erected it into a Corporation, being superseded, & his Successor calling in question the validity of the authority by which it was Incorporated, it is contented at present with its former condition, in hopes of a more favorable opportunity to reassert its rights & liberties.

The first Inhabitants of this place were Dutch—a colony from New York, & of the church of Holland. They built a small wooden church, where a Minister of their own way, & sometimes a Reader, in their several capacities, officiated. But when the Town was surrendered to the English, and the Dutch remained unsupplied with a Preacher, the said Chapel was neglected, and at length tumbled down, leaving a Bell, which the County took possession of, & still retains (how justly I shall not enquire), and a Lott of Ground, as Memorandums of its Religious Founders to posterity.

In the year 1703, those in New Castle of the Communion of the Church of England, from a sense of a want of a Person in Holy Orders to reside among them, & observing how the Presbyterians were gaining ground in the place, by reason of their having a Preacher to promote their interest, Resolved to Petition the Bishop of London to take compassion on their deplorable circumstances, which resolution they put in practice the Eleventh of August, in the said year, & in confidence of a favorable answer from his Lordship's charitable disposition, they agreed with Workmen to build a House of public Worship, drawing up a Formula for themselves & Friends, to subscribe & set down w^h Sum each of them was willing to bestow towards the erecting the Fabric; and, at the same time, appointed Richard Hallowell, Jasper Yates, and Joseph Wood, of New Castle, Gent^s (they being willing to take the trouble upon them), to be Overseers of the Building, & Agents to collect the charity of pious, well-disposed persons. In the middle of the Town lies a spacious Green, in form of a Square, in a corner whereof stood formerly a Fort, & on the Ground whereon the said Citadel was built, they agreed to erect their church, from a persuasion that, as it belonged to their Sovereign, it was not in the power of any of their troublesome Neighbours to disturb them in their commendable undertaking. In the year 1704, Emanuel Church, at New Castle, was founded, & by the charitable contributions of several

Gent^e in Pennsylvania, as well as by the large collections of Inhabitants of New Castle—not only Churchmen but, Presbyterians—in was finished and opened 1706, with the solemnity of an occasional Sermon preached by the Reverend M^r. Andreas Rudman, a Swede, then Missionary at Oxford, & distinguished by him at the request of M^r. Ross, Missionary at New Castle, by the name and appellation of Emanuel.

To the erecting of this church, his Excellency, Francis Nicholson, then Governor of Virginia, famous for his generosity & zeal in the cause of God & his Church over all America, was the first signer, & by his noble example & extraordinary bounty—for he gave £25 Sterling—many were encouraged to exert themselves in this affair, to the utmost of their ability. Richard Halliwell subscribed £20; Robert French, £20; James Coutts, £10; Jacob Van Gezel, £6; John French, £5; Hercules Coutts, £10; Sam^l Lowman, £8; Joseph Wood, £5; Adam Balldridge, £10; Rich^d Reynolds, £10; W^m Tongue, £8; Andrew Dykes, £5; John & Edward Jennings, £3; James Askue, £5; Roeloff Dehayes, £5; Silvester Garland, £3; Wessel Alricks, £2; Thomas Gray, £2; Matt^r Vanderhyden, £5; Rich^d Cautwell, £10; Wm. Houston, £2, 10s; Sam^l Silbe, £2; Hypolitus Leffever, £10; John Staples, £6; Nicholas Locker, £5; Cornel^l Empson, £1; Rob^t Ashton, £5; Geo. Lowther, £2; John Guest, £2; James Miller, £2, 10s.; W^m Harper, £5; Thomas Norton, £5; Jasper Yeates, £10; Marg^t Finch, £3; Henry Nichols, £5; Geo. Roch, £4; W^m Trent, £5; Hugh Graham, £2, 10s.; Joseph Pidgeon, £2; Joshua Carpenter, £3; John Moore, £2; Robert Quarry, £7. Besides these, there were several others who contributed small sums, whose Names, to avoid being tedious, I forbear to mention.

This Church is 50 feet long & 30 broad. Its materials are Brick, covered with Cedar. It is beautified of late with a Gallery & a Porch, by the diligence & good conduct of the present Church Wardens, Richard Grafton & W^m Read, men of real zeal for the honor of Christ & his Religion.

The Minister has £70 Sterling paid him p^r annum, by the Treasurer to the Honble Society for propagating the Gospel; besides this & his Glebe, which is computed to be worth £20 Stg. yearly, he has no certain Salary. Indeed, some of his hearers promise to contribute towards his support, but so few of them think of performing their obligation, that what he gets that way may be accounted a trille.

The number of Inhabitants belonging to this Church, or usually frequent-

ing at first, was about 20 Families, which, allowing three to a Family, to attend Divine Worship, amounts to three score. They were generally low in their condition, but not indigent, having wherewithal to support themselves, but little to spare. The employ & business of such of them as lived in the Town was retailing of Goods, Rum, Sugar & Molasses, together with some European Goods. Some enjoyed Posts in the Government, & others get their living by their handy crafts, as Carpenters, Smiths & Shoe Makers. Those of them that had their residence in the Country were occupied in clearing & grubbing of Land, in raising of Grain, as Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Oats & Barley; in improving their Stock, such as Horses, Horn Cattle, Sheep & Hogs. Few or none of them had Estates to support them without being obliged to their Trade Labour & Industry. Their sentiments in matters of Religion — I mean of those who were my first hearers — were pretty uniform, & framed upon Church principles. Most of them lived together, like Towns in England, while others, who manured the Ground, lived dispersed up & down a large compass of Ground, all of them so far distant from any other church that the healthiest and strongest amongst them could not, without great application & going on Horseback, attend Divine Service there. Travelling is easy in these parts, both Summer & Winter, except in the extreme heat of the one & when the Frost breaks up in the other. What renders Travelling so easy here, besides the serenity & agreeableness of the climate, is that the people generally make use of pacing Horses, and the Roads are far better than those in England. The present number of Inhabitants, professing themselves members of the Church under my care, are about 100 Families, & most of them much improved in their Fortunes & condition, having for the number of People as great plenty of Bread & provisions of all sorts, as Beef, Pork, Veal, Mutton & Dung Hill Fowl, as most other parts have in the King's Dominions, either at home or abroad.

There are Seven Meeting Houses used by Dissenters, besides a Lutheran Congregation, within the limits of what I call my Parish; whereof four belong to the Presbyterians, who are generally Scotch-Irish; one to the Anabaptists, being Welsh by nation, & two to the Quakers, a mingled generation of English & Irish. So that, by a modest computation, there are at least Six to one Conformist who dissent from the Church of England. The true ground of this surprizing inequality is that the country was first peopled with Dissenters, whose number is greatly increased of late, by their having fresh

supplies sent them from the North of Ireland. All their Meeting Houses, save that at New Castle, where a Dissenting Preacher cannot get Bread, are provided with Teachers, who owe their support wholly to the voluntary contributions of their people & their own industry, in planting & farming. They have sufficiency to live, rather than decency in living.

There are some private Schools within my reputed district which are put very often into the hands of those who are brought into the country & sold for Servants. Some School Masters are hired by the year, by a knot of Families who, in their turns, entertain him monthly, & the poor man lives in their Houses like one that begged an alms, more than like a person in credit & authority. When a Ship arrives in the River, it is a common expression with those who stand in need of an Instructor for their children,—*Let us go & buy a School Master.* The truth is, the office & character of such a person is generally very mean & contemptible here, & it cannot be other ways 'til the public takes the Education of Children into their mature consideration.

Among the Donations made to the church here, her late Majesty's (Queen Anne's) Gift of a Pulpit and Altar Cloaths, with a Box of Glass, I must name in the first place, both for the dignity of the Royal Donor & priority of time in which it was bestowed. Col^d Charles Gookin, late Governor of Pennsylvania, distinguished himself in this particular from all those who went before him in the Government, as well as those who have hitherto succeeded him, by his present of a valuable piece of plate, a damask Table Cloth & two Napkins, for the more decent administration of the Holy Sacrament. I can't tell whether, under this, I ought to specify and relate the several Sums given to repair & beautify the church. ✓ It may suffice to say, that the List of Benefactors in this respect is no less venerable than that of the first contributors towards its building. As to Benefactions made to Minister & School master, I know of none made to the former but a Plantation & Meadow, bequeathed for his use by the last Will & Testament of Capt^e R^d Halliwell, who, in his day, signalized himself in the defence and support of his church & country, & who, next to the Honble Society, is justly to be accounted the prime patron of Emanuel Church at New Castle. There is no settled School Master here, a thing not to be wondered at, since to this time there is no benefactions made or encouragement given to a person of that character by the Government, or to my knowledge, by any other considered in a private capacity, the consequence whereof is not to be expressed. The Library here

consists of those Books only which were sent to remain in the Parish, by the Society for propagating the Gospel, & is now in the hands of their Missionary there.

The number of Negroe Slaves in this Parish is, as far as I can compute, about 50, concerning whose Instructions very little care is taken. Some of them are in the hands of Quakers, who leave them to their common principles, the natural light. Others are in possession of Protestant Dissenters, who are so taken with the doctrine of absolute decrees, that no great stress is laid on the outward ceremony of Baptism. Those few that are baptized belong to Churchmen. The truth is, there is a general indifference in churchmen, as well as in those of other sentiments, to make proselytes of their Slaves; the true cause whereof is the want of zeal in Masters, and the untoward haughty behaviour of those Negroes who have been admitted into the Fellowship of Christ's Religion. But it is to be hoped the frequent warnings & excellent admonitions the Colonies in general have from the Venerable and Charitable Body Incorporated for promoting the Christian Faith will, by degrees, rouse & awaken them, and put life in their endeavors to save those Souls, for whose loss few seriously consider who must be accountable.

REVEREND SIR,

I have been as particular and exact in these, my enquiries, upon the heads you sent me, as my ability & a due sense of my obligation to my Hon. Patrons could possibly qualify or prompt me to do; and, as a specimen of my obedience & diligence, I transmit them to you, assuring you that the Rivers being shut up sooner & longer than ordinary, is the true reason why this Paper has not, for some months pas'd, escaped [received?] your approbation or dislike.

I am, Rev^d Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

GEO: ROSS.

Mr. BECKETT to the Secretary.

LEWES, March 13, 1724.

SIR,

I take this opportunity to acquaint you that the affairs of the Churches which are under my care go on as usual—that is, I thank God for it, they are in the main in a prosperous condition; but there is a matter or two of some moment to the welfare of the church here, as I conceive, which I more especially crave leave & intend to lay before you at this time.

Since Major Gordon's arrival here, as our Gov^r, he has promiscuously granted the Marriage Licenses to be lodged with us & the Presbyterian Ministers, a thing which was never done here before, save only in the last year of Sir W^m Keith's Government, his immediate predecessor, when Dr. Welton, the non-juror, was Minister of Philadelphia, to whom it was not fitting to grant them; and, indeed, Sir William's fortune appeared desperate at that time, so that he was willing to raise Money by any means, so that a small perquisite is hereby granted away from the Missionaries. But what is more considerable is, that it is denying us what we look upon as our right, since the very form of the License plainly shews that they cannot be granted, legally, to any one but a Minister of the Church of England.

At our last Convention, held at New Castle, Sept^r 20, 1727, the Missionaries did humbly represent this matter to the Governor, desiring his favor in the case, which he has refused. Perhaps a Letter from the Honble Society to this Gentleman might bring him to reason, & do their Missionaries a particular kindness, he professing himself a Churchman, & this, indeed, being the only favor which is in his power to shew us.

There is another affair which I conceive to be of some moment, & which might tend much to promote the pious designs of the Honble Society, which I would beg leave to lay before you, and it is briefly this:

Here is a large & good Tract of Land lying between Maryland & Pennsylvania, called the three Lower Counties on Delaware (or Counties of New Castle, Kent & Sussex), about 100 miles long & 20 miles wide. This Land, as yet, has no proprietary but his Majesty, tho' both Lord Baltemore & Penn's Heirs are now contending for it in England, not because either of them have

a fair Title to this vacant piece of Land, but because it lies convenient for either of the two that can procure it. It is generally believed by many of the best People here, who know the weakness & insufficiency of both their claims, that this Land, when the dispute on both sides is fully heard, will remain to the King. If his Majesty, when it is so determined, would bestow it on the Society, a good Sum of Money might easily be raised off it towards the support of a Bishop or Suffragan, the maintenance of Missionaries, or to such uses as the Society should think fitt. I am told by some of the Representatives of the People (who meet in assembly here for the making of our Laws), that here are about 200,000 Acres of Land, cleared & improved. Some of the Settlers have Titles from James, the late Duke of York, some from Lord Baltemore, & some from Penn, the Quaker, all, as it is believed, good for nothing in Law. It would be of little value to the Crown to keep it, but of great service to the Church, to bestow it on the Society. It would be a popular act, and make a noise in England, and the People here would be glad to have the Society their Landlord. I mean the majority, who are Members of the Church of England; Dissenters here of all sorts being not so numerous as the Conformists.

I am satisfied if this point could be carried, it would be of the greatest service to the Church here. I will write to my Lord Bishop of London on the same subject. You will please to lay this before the Honble Society, in obedience to whose order I will very soon send to you such an account of my Parish as you require.

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W^M BECKET.

Inhabitants of Kent County to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

July the 2^d, 1727.

RIGHT REVEREND AND RIGHT HONORABLE,

We, the underscribing Inhabitants of Kent County on Delaware, professing ourselves of the Honest Reformed Church of England (at home, but to our sorrow, not here) by Law established, crave leave to address your Lordship in this manner.

We hear from all hands that the eminent station you possess in the Church is very much honored by yourself, in whom pious, primitive, laborious Episcopacy is very much revived, and in whose person these virtues, which adorn and add a lustre to that station, are eminently conspicuous. In short we understand that our Benign Sovereign King George is very much applauded for the choice he has made of your Lordship to fill that eminent and honorable See.

We have written of this date to the Venerable Society for propagation of christian knowledge in Foreign parts, where our case is represented at large, and to which we refer you. Our case is very calamitous; the prevalency of the Quaker Interest is the greatest obstruction to the success of the Gospel, & to the Interest of the Church of England in these parts. M^r. Penn's Heirs, who appoint a Governor, are Quakers. They have power, & many will truckle to power who otherwise would have been faithful Churchmen. Till the prevalency of their power here is in some measure removed, thro' the interest of your Lordship and other Noble persons, the only thing that can put a stop to the career of these Enthusiasts is to send us a Clergyman of Learning and Candour to officiate amongst us. We are daily losing ground, & some of our Communion are tampered with by the promises of posts & good offices, by intermarriages & other means to leave us, and since we are vacant the confused Speeches of the Dissenters, confused & absurd as they are, they have some interest in drawing men aside. We are much obliged to M^r. Becket & M^r. Sewell, who come sometimes to supply our Vacancy. M^r. Campbell, the Society's Missionary at Apoquimona, is our very good Friend & benefactor, and since Spring has come thrice some 40 or 50 miles to preach & baptize among us. He, under God, is a very great instrument to prevent our splitting and banding in parties among ourselves, & does his utmost to keep us united as far as possible in one common Interest against the prevailing influence of the several different sects, especially the Quakers, the Presbyterians, & Antipedo baptists. We find him a faithful & attached friend to the Interest of our Church, and we entreat your Lordship will take notice of him as such.

We are told and are persuaded that your Lordship is a person of worth and influence in all Societys where you are a Member, and particularly in the Venerable Society for propagation of Christian Knowledge in Foreign Parts. We are likewise sufficiently informed of your uprightness, candour & willingness to promote the good of the Church of England, of which you are an

Hon^{ble} Father and an eminent support. We therefore entreat your good offices wth the Venerable Society, that a clergyman may be sent us, and if possible with all speed. We have sent a good many Subscriptions which we hope will induce a Gentleman of parts to come & reside among us, & then he may reasonably expect they will be very much advanced. In the meantime we beg leave to subscribe ourselves

Your Lordship's most obedient, most
faithful friends & servants,

W^M RODENEY,

W^M FINNEY, & many others.

Inhabitants of white Clay Creek to the Secretary.

25th,

1729.

SIR,

We, the Inhabitants of White Clay Creek Parish, alias called St. James, in the County of Newcastle, beg leave to represent that we are hereabouts 60 or 70 families of the Church of England, surrounded by and intermixed with multitudes of Dissenters, Quakers, Presbyterians and Anabaptists; that we have already sent home a list of our subscriptions, Amounting to £68, of this Country Currency. We are repairing our Church, with all possible expedition, & are persuaded that the Honour^{ble} Society will compassionate our deplorable circumstances, & send us a Missionary, with the first Opportunity.

The dissenting Teachers are busy among us, and no Arts are left untried to divide us among ourselves. Our Subscriptions are as considerable as those of any Parish we know in this Government to which the Society sends a Missionary, and we faithfully promise that they shall be advanced to £80, currency, at the first Easter Monday after the arrival & settlement of a Missionary among us; and, for the better encouragement of a gentleman of probity and parts in Priest's orders, to come over by your appointment to us, we hereby likewise faithfully promise to allow the Subscription now sent inclosed, from the time of his admission into your service at London, & pay it accordingly, upon his arrival, and that we shall advance our subscriptions upon the first Easter Monday, to eighty pounds, as aforesaid.

We therefore hope that the Society will not neglect us, but rather think us deserving of a Missionary; and now that Mr. Campbell, who has done a great deal of good among us, is appointed to Brookhaven, in Long Island, we are intirely left destitute of any help or assistance from any other Missionary, and our congregation will be infallibly dissolved, unless the Hon^{ble} Society will be pleased to send us a Minister, which, as it will be the greatest comfort to us, so we are persuaded it is exactly conformable to the design of your noble & pious institution.

We should have been very well satisfied if you had appointed Mr. Campbell to us, whom we esteem a worthy gentleman & a diligent pastor, & are, withal, persuaded that he has been greatly injured by some malicious & exasperated people at Apoquinimink; but since you have not thought fit to appoint him, we entreat, withal the earnestness we are capable of, to send us another. We hope it will not be thought unreasonable in us to make such a request, nor unworthy of you to grant it, because it is a thing upon which the welfare of our Church in these parts absolutely depends. What needs there more words to petition for that which we are persuaded you are as willing to grant as we are to ask?

We are sensible that the Rev^d Mr. Ross, Missionary at Newcastle, will oppose this to the utmost of his power, but we think very unreasonably and very barbarously; for, seeing he has accepted of a parish in Maryland, 'tis plain that it is impossible for him to attend Newcastle Church and ours too. We are informed that he calls our Church a Chappel of ease to Newcastle, but we absolutely deny this, and are able to prove the contrary. We own, however, that it is a Chappel of ease to him, for he has not preach'd nor officiated in it these eighteen months past; and, indeed, it is morally impossible, for the reason before mentioned. 'Tis about ten long miles from Newcastle.

We therefore once more humbly request that the Hon^{ble} Society would be pleased to send us a Missionary, as soon as they possibly can, whom we shall encourage in his office to the utmost of our power, and whom we shall treat with all the respect imaginable; for, from us, he may depend upon all the affection and esteem which is due to a Christian Pastor from the most beneficent people. We are, in all submission,

Your most obedient, humble Serv^{ts}.

Mr. BECKET to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

LEWES, Sept^r 25th, 1729.

Rev^d SIR,

Having a fair opportunity, by this conveyance, to acquaint you with the present state of my cure, I readily embrace it. To speak in general, the church in Sussex county is in a growing condition. A fourth Church, being built by the inhabitants in the middle of the forest, was opened by me about a year ago, by the name of St. John Baptist's, with the service of the Church, and a sermon suitable to the occasion; and there is likely to be a numerous congregation there, a great number of the poor people constantly attending the Divine Service as oft as I have been able to officiate there.

The number of persons baptized in my parish, the year past, are near 100, about 80 of which infants and children; 2 women, who were bred quakers, one a servant maid in my own house, another a tradesman's wife in this town, who publicly renounced the principles of that sect; nine negroes, who were instructed, some by their Masters and Mistresses, and others by me; and some few infants besides, in a journey I made to visit the late Commisary, on the eastern shore in Maryland. Some other persons are now preparing their negroes, slaves, for baptism. I have taken some pains, not only to distribute my Lord of London's letters and the Sermons by Bishop Beveridge, sent by the Society, but also to exhort privately, and to preach publicly, on the occasion.

The number of communicants at Lewes, on Christmas Day last, was 20; at St. George's, at Easter, 17; at St. Mathew's on Whitsun-day, 13.

I am under some concern to know whether you have received the Historical Account of my Parish, whether it came in time to be inserted in the printed work.

I have wrote to you (I think) twice, to beg leave of the Honble Society to return to England for a small time, to settle some private affairs, which, to me, are matters of consequence, and to solicit a continuation of my salary, in the mean time; but not having heard any thing from you on this point, I beg

you'll do me the favour to lay before them my repeated request, and to favour me with their answers, by the next opportunity.

I am, Rev^d Sir, yours, &c.,

WILLIAM BECKET.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, Oct' 4, 1729.

SIR,

I persuade myself that you'll be agreeably entertained when I assure you that Religion never appeared in this place in so shining and lively a state as it does at present. That generation is almost extinct who were my hearers at my first settling here, and those who succeed them are a set of very honest, Zealous Churchmen, whose lives adorn their Profession, and cool the hearts of those who are prejudiced against our grave and manly worship. We are blessed with peace and mutual love, and none among us are tainted with new and strange opinions. The sacrament of our Lord's death is regularly administered, and a devout number constantly receive it. Two Adults were lately baptized, and a good many children are carefully instructed in the faith. ✓ To maintain the ground we have so remarkably gained, I humbly propose that a small salary of six pounds per annum may be allowed to a catechist or schoolmaster, in this place, to encourage his instructing youth in the Church Catechism. ✓ The Government under which I live has no such thing at heart. Charity, at present, is our only remedy.

✓ I have been alarmed, of late, with some account from your Treasurer, as if I was in arrears to him. His mistake is owing to his placing and dating my mission at the end of a month, whereas it begun the 1st September, and so I have drawn my Bills, heretofore, without being questioned. I desire I may not suffer, thro' inadvertance of a new hand. I am poor, though one of your oldest Missionaries. The Consideration whereof, and that I have several children to provide for, may claim relief, rather than a nice scrutiny, from the Honorable Board. ✓

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Serv^t,

GEORGE ROSS.

M^r. CAMPBELL to the Secretary.

BROOKHAVEN, July 31st, 1729.

SIR,

According to the Society's order, I removed from Apoquiniminck, and arrived at Brookhaven eight days ago, and find that the people of Brookhaven are engaged to one M^r. Dwight, who went to England in order to be ordained. He is strongly recommended by them; they have the greatest esteem for him, and they all, to a man, wish him for their Missionary. Nay! their affections are so centered in him, that I dare say they should prefer him to any one Clergyman you can send, possibly, them. He has been educated in New England. He knows the people here, their sentiments and way of thinking, better than several others. They are, generally speaking, New England Converts, and I believe a great many more will come in, by the labours of M^r. Dwight, who will undoubtedly sway them much more than any other person is capable to do. For my own part, I own that I am at a very great loss. I am a stranger to cant, and cannot but esteem it an unnatural acquisition; and though it may be useful in some places, I am apt to believe that it derives its origin either from gross ignorance or ridiculous affectation.

But, on the other hand, there is another Parish, that of St. James, or White Clay Creek, in Newcastle County upon Delaware, equally, if not much more, deserving than Brookhaven, consisting of at least seventy families. They love me to a man, and I love them, and I hope I have done some good among them. Now, I submit it to the Hon^{ble} Society, whether, all other circumstances being equal, whether 'tis not more eligible and more consistent with the design of the Society, to send M^r. Dwight here, & send me to St. James', in New Castle county. 'Tis true, M^r. Ross Calls this a Chappel of ease to Newcastle, but very unreasonably, for he has accepted of a Parish in Maryland. Now, it's impossible for him to attend that Church in Maryland, Newcastle and St. James', too. However, the people of St. James' own that St. James is a Chappel of ease at least to M^r. Ross, because he has not preached in it these two years past; neither, indeed, is it possible, for the reason above mentioned.

I hope the Society will consider that it is of the greatest advantage to Missionaries, in the propagation of the gospel, that their persons are agreeable to and generally beloved by their Parishioners, without which their labours cannot be very successfull. Now, I am certain that Mr. Dwight, by the blessing of God, is capable to do important service to the church at Brook Haven, at least much more than I could do; and I persuade myself that, through Divine assistance, I shall be usefully subservient to the propagation of the Gospel at St. James'. Upon this account it is that I plead for an exchange, equally beneficial & agreeable both to Mr. Dwight and myself, and equally comfortable to the respective parishes, which they have signified by letters to the Society; and therefore I hope the Hon^{ble} Society will, in their wonted goodness, grant their request. The same with the reasonable & hearty desire of

Their most humble S^t,

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL.

Mr. BECKET to the Secretary.

LEWES, July 1st, 1731.

REV^d SIR,

I am glad of the present opportunity of writing to you, by an acquaintance of mine, one Mr. Sharp, who, being stopped by contrary winds, called ashore at our Town.

My Parish is much in the same state it was in when I wrote to you last. We have 4 Congregations, at 4 Churches in this County, 3 of which are very numerous. On Sunday last, I officiated at St. George's Chapel, which, tho' it has been enlarged near one half since my coming, yet could not contain above one half of the hearers. I baptized that day five white Infants and three Negroe slaves. It is remarkable that I have baptized at that chapel, in about 6 weeks time last past, 10 white persons and 11 Negroes, besides a considerable number at other churches in this County. From this single instance, I hope it will be evident to the Honble Society that I have taken some pains to enforce the tenor of the Society's instructions, and my Lord

Bishop of London's letters, with regard to the Negroes in my Parish, which has indeed more Church people in it than are in any (nominal) Parish in Pennsylvania. This, perhaps, may be owing to the great distance we are from Philadelphia, which, at this time, is the greatest sink of Quakerism and infidelity in all English America. Did you but know, Sir, how my brethren, the Missionaries, are used here, and how they are discouraged by no less a person than the greatest man in the Province, and his creatures, a set of Infidels, I know you would pity us. I thank God I am easier on that account than any of them, the distance is so great that the shot reaches me but now and then. I am Procul a Jove, procul a fulmine.

I return thanks for the leave I have to return to England for 3 months. I cannot make use of it till the ensuing fall or Spring. I have taken pains, but see no possibility of getting my Cure supplied during my absence, unless now and then a Sunday. I have thought of the following method, viz: to put a volume of plain and useful Sermons in the hand of some sober, discreet Layman, to read to the people on Sundays, during my stay in England; as also to read the public prayers. If the Society does not approve of this, you'll be so good as to let me know. I am, with great gratitude and sincerity,

Rev^d Sir, &c.,

WM BECKET.

*To the Honourable Society for Propagating the Gospel in
Foreign Parts.*

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF WILLIAM BECKET, THEIR MISSIONARY AT LEWES IN
PENNSYLVANIA, 15TH APRIL, 1732,

Showeth:

That your humble Petitioner hath been missionary to the Hon^{ble} Society for the space of 11 years, & hath resided constantly in the place of his mission 10 years & a half, in Lewes, in Sussex, during which time (blessed be God), 2 new churches have been built in the said County, & 2 more that were raised before the arrival of your said Petitioner have been carried on, so as to

admit of the decent worship of Almighty God; in which places your said petitioner hath given constant attendance, on Sunday & Holydays, in preaching, praying, catechising, & administering the Holy Sacraments, & other duties of his function, with good success, insomuch that above 1000 people, old & young, white & black, have been instructed & baptised in the said Country, by your Petitioner, & many persons are constant com'cants of the church of England; & that here are more people, professing themselves members of the said church, than in any other county in this governm^t considering in proportion with Dissenters of all sorts; that is to say, there are a great majority of the members of the Church of England.

There was a Presbyterian minister & a Quaker speaker in this County at the time of your said Petitioner's arrival, but they have both now left the province, without sending any one to succeed them; so that now there is not any preacher of any persuasion in this province, except your petitioner.

That when your petitioner had resided here for the space of 7 years, or thereabouts, being earnestly desirous to see his native country once more, & to settle some affairs of his own there, he did request the Society for leave to that purpose, which leave was kindly granted by the said society. But by reason that no clergyman was to be procured to officiate in his absence, upon many accounts it would have been indiscreet & unsafe for your said petitioner to leave so great a cure without any pastor, especially at such a juncture.

Upon this weighty consideration, your s^d Pet^r hath been content to set aside his own inclination & business at present, that he might the better serve the church of God, & promote the good designs of the Hon^{ble} Society.

That the labours & fatigues of your petitioner have been very great in his mission, so that some years, besides performing the offices of his function, he travelled, at a moderate computation, 1632 miles, to promote the good designs of the said Society. And on other years, when his task has been the easiest, no less than 1156 miles, so that he was obliged always to keep two horses, which are very chargeable to be maintained in a town, your said petitioner not having any Glebe or Farm to maintain them upon.

That the Parishioners of your Pet^r having been exceedingly kind to him during the whole times, by subscribing liberally towards support & maintenance, considering their poor circumstances, & by many other kind & good offices, which has been a great encouragement to your petitioner, in the midst of his labours.

That, besides what is already mentioned, they have at this time done an extraordinary act of kindness to your petitioner. A good farm, of about 400 acres of land, with a good house on it, a good orchard, near 1000 fruit trees, a good barn frame, with a kitchen & out houses, about 7 miles distant from Lewes; they have advised him to buy it, & promised to assist him, unanimously, in the purchase of it, that so he may be enabled to secure a more certain support for his family, & also that no invitations from any neighbouring vacant parishes in Virginia or Maryland (many of which have been offered to him), may induce him to leave them. Accordingly, he hath joined them in a bargain with the owner of the said land. The price to be paid for it is £270 of this currency: £160 are to be paid down now, & £110 a year hence. Your Ven^{ble} Board will see, by a copy of the subscriptions which your petitioner has caused to be exemplified & sent over to you, regularly attested, how far the poor people of this parish were able to help him in this affair—a testimony of their zeal for religion & their esteem for your petitioner.

But as Lewes is a chargeable place, being a small sea port on the mouth of the great river Delaware, where all European Goods are generally sold at near £200 ꝥ cent. advance on sterling, & for as much as your Pet^r hath a numerous family to maintain, namely, a wife & 4 children, & hath been often times in charity obliged to maintain shipwrecked & distressed people, as well as in civility to entertain Gent^l & Strangers, especially of the Communion of the Church of England, who occasionally resorted to that place; & as a clergyman must be given to hospitality, as well as apt to teach, so your petitioner hath not been able to save any money, except only what may buy a stock of cattle, & such implements for husbandry as are necessary upon a farm, & without which it cannot turn to a profitable account. Upon the whole, your humble Pet^r desires the Hon: Society to concur with his parishioners in this charitable Act, that they will be pleased to bestow on your pet^r something, whatever they, in their wisdom & goodness, shall think proper, towards paying for the Farm on which he is now settled; or, if not that, they will be so good as to advance a year's salary for him, on the 25th day of March next, when the purchase money is to be paid; & your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

*The Inhabitants of S'. John's Parish, in Kent County, to
Mr. Archd^r CUMMINGS.*

PENSILVANIA, April 15th, 1732.

REV^d SIR,

We having often heard how firmly you are attached to the Interest of the church of England, as by law Established, but how boldly you have exerted yourself, upon all occasions, in the defence of our holy religion; as also of your justness & uprightness in the faithful discharge of your holy function, so that none of the dissenting parties have any form for calumny against you. This great character, Sir, which we think few do attain to, hath given us great encouragement to apply to you, & implore your kind & hearty assistance in relieving us out of our long calamitous condition, respecting our want of a min^r of the church of England, to preach the gospel among us. It is now upwards of 20 years we have remained destitute of that great blessing. Perhaps, Sir, you'll not a little wonder that we have so long neglected so great a concern as the Honour of Almighty God & the salvation of our souls. But we hope you'll excuse us when you have perused the enclosed papers (which we send only to show we have not been wholly negligent), & are informed of many discouragements & obstructions which, from time to time, we have all along met with. But perhaps because these things will be too long & tiresome to trouble you with in a letter, for a better information thereof than we can give in writing, we refer you to the Rev^d Mr. Ross & Mr. Beckett, who have indeed been our great friends & benefactors, in helping us so far forwards as you'll perceive we now are. Those rev^d Gentⁿ are fully acquainted with our case, & of the many hard struggles that we who are at present concerned,—we mean all those of our communion in whose behalf, as well as our own, we write,—have, thro' the mutability of fortune, met withall.

Our church hath all along been loseing ground, nor can we say but that it appears to us her demolition is near at hand, unless speedily relieved; for now, at this time, the Quaker interest, having so great a prevalency amongst us that, generally speaking, they are our magistrates, & many will

truckle to power who otherwise would be faithful church men. The Presbyterians also are become very strong in this county. They have built 2 chapels, & have a min^r appointed lately amongst them; a Gent^e who, for great learning, good sense, & strong judgment & eloquence of speech, by reports of much better judges than ourselves, is deemed to have a very large share of those excellent qualifications.

By these means the interest of our church here seems to be more than ever in Hazard of greater decay, & until these obstructions are removed, we cannot be safe. We presume, Sir (under God), nothing will sooner put a stop to the strong efforts of those enthusiasts than the speedy setting among us a min^r of the church of England, a Gent^e of learning & candour, qualified in every part & respect, to encounter such strong opposers as we have above observed to you.

Upon the whole, we beg for God's sake, & as you respect the success of the Gospel & the Interest of the church of England, that you will, by the first opportunity in our behalf, write to the Hon^{ble} Society in such terms as you think proper, to urge them with all speed to send a missionary of the church of England,—a Gent^e well qualified on so great an occasion as we have here informed you. For, give us leave, Sir, to observe to you that, should such missionary which may be sent prove a man of a loose life, & corrupt in his manners, nothing will demolish us sooner; when, on the other hand, a Gent^e of such qualifications as we have already observed, we are very sure will prove very advantageous; but we shall leave this matter to your wise & prudent management with the Hon: Society. In compliance to the Society's answer to our petition, we send enclosed also our subscriptions, which we earnestly request you'll send by the first. The amount of the original was much more than these copys appear to be; but, as you'll see by their date, we have been a long while getting them, tho' 2 or 3 years have been spent in gaining the certificate & seals. By this means, several subscribers are dead, which has lessened the sum, for we have put none in the copys but those that are living. Nevertheless, the most of the deceased subscribers will be as good as ever, by reason their descendents are now grown up. We do assure you, Sir, the generality of the people in this county incline to our church. They are awed by the Quaker's party. A great number who have not subscribed for the maintenance of a min^r have promised faithfully they will, when one is settled among them, so that we are also very sure that the amount of

the subscriptions therewith sent will be considerable more than than doubled, if we are not long delayed. What need we say more to one whom we have so good reason to believe will readily & faithfully serve us in so lamentable a condition? We hope you'll excuse the trouble hereby given you, & beg leave to subscribe ourselves, Sir, yours, &c., &c.

WM RODENY,
E. JONES.

Mr. BECKETT to the Secretary.

LEWES IN PENNSILVANIA, Apr^l 20th, 1732.

REV^d SIR,

I send you herewith a petition to the Hon: Society, &c., which I must beg the favour of you to lay before the Ven^{ble} Board, as also a copy of a subscription, which my parishioners have been so kind as to present me, the better to enable me to buy a Farm among them, for my better settlement & support, & that of my Family. And I shall also send you a map of Sussex County (my parish), if I can get one truly drawn, that so the Hon: Society may the better judge of the convenience or inconvenience of my present situation, with respect to the several churches here. When it is considered that the people here are generally poor, I doubt not but it will appear to the Hon: Society to be a very liberal benefaction, & that I have not behaved myself ill among a people who are so desirous that I should settle among them for life.

My parishioners have made me a voluntary & free present of what they were able to contribute. However, if I die without issue (as God only knows what shall come to pass), I purpose in my last will to bequeath it to the Hon: Society. The purchase money, according to the bargain, is to be paid as follows: £160 of this country currency is to be paid down now, at my entry on the said farm, being ab^t £100 Ster., & £40 Currency on the 25th day of March next—being about £70 Ster. You will be so good, Sir, as to lay these matters before the Hon: Society, & to let me know their pleasure therein, with convenient speed, that so I may know how to prepare myself for the latter payment, above mentioned. The state of my parish is much as usual, so that I do not need to trouble you with any particular account of it

at this time. Infidelity has spread much of late in some parts of this government, but God be praised, my parish is pretty well free from it. My Lord Bishop of London's letters, &c., have been of great use & service to Christianity in America, & indeed everything he writes is read here with a great esteem. We hear that some others of my Lords, the Bishops, & several other eminent divines, have employed their pens in the Christian cause, but being in this corner of the world, I know not how to get any of them, otherwise they would be of great use. My Parishioners are in great want of church catechisms, prayer books, & psalms of the new version, that so they might bring up their children more religiously. I remain, Rev^d Sir, &c., &c.,

W^m BECKETT.

P. S.—The Free-thinkers are very busy in spreading their books in this province.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEW CASTLE IN PENNSILVANIA, Nov^r 7th, 1732.

REV^d SIR,

It cannot be expected, without the intervention of extraordinary means, that the church should flourish in a country where to revolt from her doctrine & discipline is both profitable & fashionable. To exemplify this, I am to observe to you, with no small concern, that the congregation to which I belong is not so large as I have seen it heretofore, by reason of apostates in power, who industriously encourage the forsakeing of our assemblys, & promote the cause of infidelity, as if their happiness consisted therein. An Harangue was made here t'other day, from the bench of Justices, exposing those for Idiots who pay any regard to Priests or Churches. Imagine yourself among a set of Tindalls or Woolstons, & hence you may frame a just Idea of the conduct & deportment of many of our chief rulers & statesmen.

This, tho' a true state of this colony, you are not to publish, unless you are resolved to prefer me to the Honor of Martyrdom. To be a missionary here, in the present posture of affairs, is in good earnest to fight with beasts of Ephesus.

Nothing but hacking & hewing is left unattempted to discourage us & drive us away. Our subscriptions are Nullities, whilst our hearers are publicly laughed at by those who make the greatest figure, for parting with their money to support—as they say—a pack of cheats & villains. This being premised, give me leave to say—for necessity obliges me—that my salary, as matters stand here at present, comes short of a handsome maintenance. My old subscribers are all dead, and a much poorer, as well as a less generous, race is come in their room. What they promise, many of them never perform; & if I seek for redress, I am sure to lose my money & my hearers. I can safely say I have not above £12 ^{per} ann., honestly paid to me by subscription,—I mean of this Country currency. This, with my salary, affords a mean support, with which I am willing to be content, if the Hon^{ble} Society shall think fit to judge me unworthy of better treatment, after I have spent 27 years in their employ, for the service of the Gospel. If it should please God to take me hence, in my present circumstances, believe me, I have a quarter's salary left to defray the expenses of my funeral, which is a sufficient argument of my poverty & the meanness of my support. An augmentation has already been allowed to some who neither wanted it so much, or had a better claim to it than myself. I have already observed to you that I have been a missionary 27 years, & gave, I presume, general satisfaction in the mission. I am willing to finish my course, but I would depart like their servant in circumstances suitable to their goodness & bounty, not in a mean & contemptible state, least the uncircumcised in heart should rejoice. If, therefore, the considerations of the discouragements that attend the mission in these parts, my age & long service, together with a large family, my Hon^{ble} Benefactors would be pleased to settle £80 yearly, as long as I continue in the mission, which cannot be very long ordina nature, I should think myself not only highly favoured, but also be distinguished as a good old soldier in the cause of the truth. All this I humbly submit to their charitable & pious consideration, & so I pass to a more agreeable head.

The church here is served, & I trust as carefully as the instructions of my superiors require & my ability can reach. I am absent from New Castle but one Sunday in a month, to supply a neighbouring cure, on the borders of Maryland. The income of my Maryland cure, whereof a share goes to my assistant, is paid in Tobacco, & considerable of that weed being at present very contemptible. That small parish was formerly a help to me, but now it

fails, & that failure has obliged me to have resource to the charity of the Society. My frankness in this particular may serve to remove exceptions, & demonstrate my sincerity. The stated seasons of publick prayers in the forenoons, on Wednesdays & Fridays, & on all Holy days, are duly observed in those few that attend the hours of devotion. I count myself happy, & in them the church is honoured. The duty of catechising is discharged with good success. Mr. Lewis's exposition has been said by heart several times, by some particular catechumens, to the applause of the youth & the satisfaction of the congregation. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is very frequently & reverently celebrated; & however some Demas's have forsaken the publick assemblys, & have listed themselves among our free-thinkers, yet, God be thanked, the number of Communicants is entire still, & not to be shaken, I hope, by the present Infectious wind.

As to the people of Whiteclay Creek, I have had no encouragement, or so much as a general request to go among them, since Mr. Campbell, that stirring man, amused them with promises of returning from England, in the quality of their missionary, or procuring one for them. That unhappy man acted the Incendiary so much, that he made them believe that the way to get a missionary entirely to themselves was to affront me, & by all means to discourage my coming among them. The Society may indulge them in their humour, & settle a young man in the skirt of their parish, which cannot in the least affect or hurt my interest; but a precedent of that nature can be no great encouragement to the building of chappels, when it shall appear that to rear a chappel is to dismember a small congregation. I shall say nothing of their ingratitude to me, but 'tis proper to let the Society know that they have more vanity than judgment, else they could not have the assurance to petition for a favour w^{ch} entire counties are deprived of, & which I am sure they are not able to make any addition to. They have been without a head & a heart since the death of one James Robinson, a true & zealous son of the church, & that's the reason why they have been imposed upon to trouble the Society.

The people at Chester are desirous to have Mr. Backhouse's Bro^r encouraged from home, to keep School in their village; & some of them, my old acquaintances, prayed that I would write in their behalf. The Board was pleased, while I was incumbent in the said town, to allow a Schoolmaster there £60 p^a ann. This, if resettled with a small addition, will be attended, I make no doubt, with good consequences, in a place where no church school can

subsist, by reason of powerful Quakerism, without the bounty of the most generous men. I am a beggar myself, & must not transgress the rules of modesty so far as to be importunate in asking alms for others, I recommending myself to your favour & intercession, by vouchsafing of which, you'll highly oblige yours, &c., &c.,

GEORGE ROSS.

Mr. BECKET to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

LEWES, PENSILVANIA, Aug^t 6th, 1733.

REV^d SIR,

I received the favour of yours, wherein you acquaint me that the Hon^{ble} Society were pleased, at my petition, to order a year's salary to be advanced in my favour. I accept of that favour with great thankfulness, but did not draw bills upon the Treasurer for it until a Quarter of a Year after the time prefixed by you, because your letter did not come to hand till the month of June last. My parish, I bless God, is in a good condition in one respect, that is to say, our churches are frequented by numerous congregations; but the people, alas! are poor, & no ways able to pay me this year what they subscribed for to assist me in the payment for the Farm, which they encouraged me to buy, they having had but very poor crops the year past. So that, beside what the Society have been so good as to advance, I have £150 still to pay, being still so much in debt, of this country currency. I have a family, S^r, of 4 Children, which, since my last letter to you, have lost a tender mother, & I a careful wife; & having paid away this year's salary, how shall I do to provide them necessarys of life during the current year, unless the Hon: Society will be so good as to give me something by way of benefaction? Had I come to England, according to the leave obtained from the Society, & had an opportunity to state my case viva voce, I was in hopes the Society would compassionate me, & bestow something on me; but as I have laid aside those thoughts, for reasons I gave you in my last, tho' I can not be so happy as to wait on the

Society in person, I do yet hope they will pity my case, & bestow something upon me, whatever they, in their wisdom & goodness, shall think fit. I have been now in the Society's mission 12 years, & have done all in my power to promote their good designs, not without some success. I hear they have been so good as to bestow something on M^r. Ross & M^r. Weyman, whose circumstances I believe were really necessitous, as well as my own. If they will be so good to me, it will be a means, I hope, to preserve my poor family from want at this time, for my farm as yet is not in so good order as to provide us necessaries. As my distress is real & pressing, so I send this letter to the Rev^d M^r. Com^r Cummings, who is acquainted with my case, to desire him to testify under his own hand concerning my circumstances in this matter, I beg you'll do me the favour to lay this before the Hon: Society, & to let me have an answer, with convenient speed, & you'll greatly oblige, Rev^d Sir, yours, &c., &c.,

WILL^m BECKETT.

M^r. ROSS to the Secretary.

N. CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, Oct^r 8th, 1733.

REV^d SIR,

The falling away I complained of & lamented, in my letter to you of Nov^r, 1732, sensibly abates among us. The Sallies of that spirit that prevailed for some years in these parts are neither so frequent nor so vigorous. Nay, I may say what Parmenio in Curtius said to his troops, in the battle of Arbela, with a small variation, "Videmus isstos qui ferociter modo instabant pedem, referre subito pavore per territios," & therefore may Justly encourage my brethren, in the words of that great general, "quid cessatis anne fugientibus quidem pares estis." Thus stands religion at present, with respect to our mockers in this colony, while some of our Traditors are making of easy advance towards making a reconciliation with their persecuted mother; & I hope, in time, it may be said of many of them, that they preach the faith which once they destroyed. My friend at London has signified to me what the Hon^{ble} Society were pleased to decree in my favour. I humbly thank them for their season-

able relief, and to demonstrate, by real services, my gratitude, I have laid hold of all opportunitys to exert myself to the utmost in the discharge of my mission, not only at home, but abroad. Having learned, from one M^r. Montgomery, in an accidental conversation, that there were several new settlers in his neighbourhood from Ireland, who professed themselves members of the church of England, but that they were in danger of falling away, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. I offered my service immediately, and fixed upon a day to preach among them. Accordingly, May last, the 15th day, I went to the said Montgomery's house, & in his barn, the most convenient place he had, I read prayers & preached to a large congregation. It consisted of a mixt multitude, among whom were many presbyterians, who are by far the majority of the people of that corner of the Land. The church people were very thankful, & rejoiced that they had an opportunity of serving God their own way, in the part of the province so far from any missionary. This Montgomery's house lies about 24 miles from New Castle, in Chester County, but some miles more distant from the Town of Chester. I baptised 10 children, & church't 6 women.

I discoursed with one woman, in the Quaker Way, upon the subject of baptism. Her husband is a church man, by whose means I found an opportunity of acquainting the wife with my thoughts upon that head, which is so warmly run down by friends. What my success was, time has not yet discovered. I was extremely well pleased to see so many of the congregation so well versed in & so regular in their deportment at Divine service. This, with the hopes of enlarging the borders of our Lord's Kingdom, engaged me to promise them my assistance once a month, as long as the season allowed me to travel so far from home. I made good my promise to them, as may be seen from the following journal:

On S^t. Barnabas' day I preached at the said Rob^t Montgomery's house, baptised 3 children, & fixed on the 6th of Aug^t to attend the church there again. Aug^t 6th I preached the 3rd time at Rob^t Montgomery's. The congregation was not so large as it had formerly been, there being a rumour spread abroad among the people that I had altered the day of meeting. I baptised 2 children.

Sept^r 3rd, I preached the 4th time at the said place, but people not having due notice, the congregation was not so full as at first. Oct^r 2nd, I preached again at Montgomerie's audience, which was numerous, & broke up with

general satisfaction. What pleased particularly was my commenting, without notes, upon the 2nd Lesson, as I very often do in Country places, to shew the Dissenters what we can do, as well as others, & to gain them in their own, while innocent, way. This takes wondrously well with the people I have to deal with, in the corner I am speaking of. They are, for the most part, North Country Irish, & are to be gained by approaching in a method suitable to their taste; & thus I endeavour, I hope agreeably to my superior's mind, to reconcile prejudiced persons to our sound but misrepresented communion.

If the Society thinks fit to send a missionary to this new congregation, known by the name of the church in London Grove, in Chester County in Pensilvania, there is room enough for an active labourer to reap a plentiful harvest. The same missionary may have Whiteclay creek Chapel, commonly called St. James' church, comprehended within his bounds, since it is in the neighbourhood of the said Grove. The Country is inhabited back from this tract of land, called the Grove, 50 or 60 miles, & that generally by those termed Scotch-Irish. A clergyman settled at the Grove will open a door for the future progress of the church's increase & unity. I am, Revd Sir, &c., &c.

GEO: ROSS.

Mr. FRAZER to the Secretary.

KENT COUNTY, PENSILVANIA, Nov^r 12th, 1733.

SIR,

In obedience to the orders of the Society, this waits on you to let you know that, after a stormy & dangerous voyage of 10 weeks, I landed safe at Philadelphia, & after a few days went down about 100 miles, by water, to the place of my mission. Upon landing, I was received respectfully by several of the principal Inhabitants, & conveyed to Dover, the County Town, tho' a small village of about 15 or 16 families. I preached next day in their Court house, & desired a meeting of the members of the church some days after, at which we chose 2 Church wardens & 10 vestrymen, 2 of every 100, the County being divided into 5 hundreds, & no other regular clergy man in the County but myself. At the same meeting they began a new subscription for me,

many of the old subscribers being dead. Then & since they have subscribed very near £60, their currency. They likewise began a subscription to build a new brick church at Dover. Then & since they have subscribed to it about £100. The former church being old boarded house, so ruinous that it is not fit to be repaired. I have preached in 5 different parts of the Country since, it being 40 miles long, & in some places 20 broad, & baptised in all about 60 children & 2 Grown persons. I am obliged, several Sundays, to ride 12 (sometimes 16) miles in the morning, but my health has been so bad, for near 4 months past, that for some time I was disabled from doing any part of my duty, even at home; & as yet, the fever, tho' abated, continues still upon me. Wherefore, I beg, Sir, when you lay this before the Society, you'll be pleased to signify my desire of being moved to some healthier place, for I find my constitution will not hold it any time here; but, at the same time, should be very glad to see this place provided before I left it. A person of discretion & moderation might do a great deal of good here, & carry off most of the growing generation, tho' it will be a work of time to bring them to a true regularity, they having been so long without a regular clergyman. I have no more to add, but that, with my humble duty to the Hon^{ble} Society, I am, with respect, Sir, yours, &c., &c.,

GEORGE FRAZER.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEW CASTLE, PENSILVANIA, March 22nd, 173^l.

REV^d SIR,

I make no doubt but you'll have an account of the Rev^d Mr. Hacket's death, from different quarters; but as he was my near neighbour, & my son-in-Law, It concerns me in a particular manner to acquaint you with this, to me, melancholy news. He departed this life the 7th of this instant, being seized with a pleurisy a few days before, in his full strength & vigour. This distemper proved mortal to many in his parish, this last winter, as well as to him. His death is lamented by everybody here, that knew him, but the loss touches none more sensible here than myself. He maintained a fair character, & by

his obliging, generous temper & unwearied diligence in his mission, he so far gained the hearts of his people that his memory is had in the greatest veneration. His great misfortune was that he was surprisingly in debt to one Mr. Millar, in London (how or by what management I will not say), before he came over into America. This unavoidably led him to run in debt in this country for his present support. Had he lived 2 or 3 years longer, he would have surmounted all his difficulties; but as his case now stands, his credit must suffer, & his widow commence a beggar. What relief she & her 2 children can expect in these parts, must come from me; but, considering my circumstances, her deliverance must come from another quarter.

The Hon: Society have shown compassion to their poor widows of their missionaries heretofore, & I hope my daughter will not be excluded from sharing in their bounty. I assure you she is left in those circumstances that render her a real object of pity. But what need have I to plead for her? I am persuaded there is no occasion to offer motives to engage their charity in a case that is so very evident, & must melt that heart where it finds admittance.

The church in Pensilvania & adjacent countrys enjoy, at present, greater peace that she was favoured with for some time past. Her adversaries have run themselves out of breath, & their victory being so small & unprofitable, they are ashamed of being so zealous to so little purpose.

As to my congregation here, there is no change in it that I can put down as worthy of your remark, save that I baptised one adult grown man, of a sober life, about 2 weeks ago. Please not to observe that as I am willing to water, so I decline no opportunity to plant. This leads me to go abroad, into the desolate corners of the Country, where I think I can be serviceable, & the best answer the end of my mission. This liberty I seldom take on Sundays, which, if I did, should think it no harm, so long as the church gained ground by it. I told you, in my last, that I preached to a new congregation in that part of the Country known by the name of London Tract. On the 19th of this instant, I visited my new flock, which I found was considerably increased, & will, I trust, deserve, in a short time, the notice of the Hon^{ble} Board. I baptised two children, & fixt a day to visit them again. I can say no more at present, but that I am,

Rev^d Sir, yours, &c., &c.,

GEO: ROSS.

Mr. FRASER to the Secretary.

DOVER IN KENT COUNTY, Nov^r 28th, 1734.

REV^d SIR,

I received yours of the 18th of Jan^r last. I have, since my last, gone about in 9 or 10 different places of this County, some 18, some 20 miles distant from this, preaching & Baptizing, & Catechising; having, within these twenty months, have been here baptized 220 persons, of which twenty-five above the age of 16, seven brought up Quakers, the rest, thro' want of a Clergyman, regularly bred, & the neglect of parents, had been brought up in a stupid ignorance of the use or need of that ordinance. I did not administer the other sacrament till last Easter, at which were 16 Communicants. I had much ado, both by preaching & conversation, to bring even those who were otherwise of Church principles, to the just sense of the necessity of this, as well as other means of grace, it not having been administered in this Country for 24 years past. Our people have begun a new Brick Church at Dover. The walls are finished, & if the undertaker had not died, would have been covered in before Winter. They are generally poor, so that the payment of my subscription is very backward.

*To the Venerable Society for the Propagation of Christianity
in Foreign parts.*

THE PETITION OF M^r. W^m. LINDSAY,

Humbly Sheweth:

That having from his youthhood been careful to improve himself in languages at private schools, after which attended the University at Glasgow, & studied natural Philosophy, & being examined by the professors there, thought worthy to have my Diploma given me, as Master of Arts; & afterwards attended 2 years under the Rev^d John Simson, & at my departure was honored with his testimonials (which is ready to be produced), some time afterward

being spent in further studies, I took a resolution of visiting North America, with many of our neighbors & relations, having had testimonials both from the Church Clergy & Dissenters, with private Letters to Gentlemen there. Upon my arrival there, in August the 3rd, 1733, I was encouraged by the Dissenting Clergy to stand trials for ordination, but the terms of their communion being narrowed by great impositions and solemn declarations against the Church of England, I could not, in conscience, comply with so much bigotry; & being known to the Missionaries, & particularly to the Rev^d Mr. Cummings, his Lordship's Commissary there, who, after strictest search being made into my life & character,—which he & the clergy were well satisfied with,—I am recommended to this Ven'ble Society & to his Lordship, by his Rev^d Commissary & your Missionaries in the province of Pennsylvania, as a fit person to fill up the vacancy of Apoquinimink in Pennsylvania. There are some particular reasons for my filling up that mission, which I should rejoice if this Ven'ble Society would take notice of.

And as I have lately arrived here, thro' the hardships and difficulties of a long voyage (being beholden to the Missionaries for assistance to have my passage defrayed), I humbly hope that this Honorable Society will appoint me Missionary to Apoquinimink (or, if it is disposed of to any other), to any mission that they think proper. There are 5 vacant places in Pennsylvania, who greatly stand in need to be supplied.

1st. There is Trentown, where Col^l Cox lives, where never any Church has been, a growing, flourishing place, 33 miles from Philadelphia. They have applied often to Mr. Cumming, to write home for a Missionary.

2nd. London Grove, that have already Petitioned for a Missionary, which, in all probability, will become a great place. They have already done some endeavors to encourage the Gospel.

3rd. Whitclay Creek, where is a small Church & a considerable body of people, that have no supply, unless it be by a Sweedish Missionary at some times.

4th. Concord, in the County of Chester, where are above 70 families, that are rarely or never supplied with a Day's preaching (unless it be by the Rev^d Mr. Backhouse), once in three months.

5th. Amuel & Hopewell, in the Jerseys, lying within some few miles of Trentown, are likewise destitute of the Gospel.

I would humbly propose to this Hon'ble Society, that if their stock cannot

bear the opening of a new mission to any of these places, to appoint me Missionary Itinerant in them, till a vacancy fall in their disposal. It has been often lamented by many to see such corruption in principle & life in these places, by being destitute of the Gospel among them. If they can afford so to do, I shall think myself in duty bound to be as useful in promoting Christianity there as my poor & weak capacity will allow, & would glory in being an instrument of propogating Christianity in these American deserts.

And that God may bless your pious and charitable endeavors with happy success, in your great & generous designs, is & for ever shall be the prayer & sincere wish of

Your humble Petitioner,

WILLIAM LINDSAY.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEW CASTLE, June 15th, 1736.

REVEREND SIR,

The Church in this place has lately lost two of its Chief supporters, particularly one William Read, a person of singular piety, and the greatest benefactors I had in all my Parish. This, tho' a great discouragement, has not determined me to lay hold of the favor The Honorable Society were pleased to grant me, in giving me leave to quit my station for a better. I must be sorely pinched, indeed, e'er I can resolve leaving my Mission, wherein I have been so many years employed; and therefore be assured that as long as I can subsist upon my salary here, I will continue, and do my utmost to promote the interest of religion, as I am in Duty bound. The number of Communicants here are, Ordinarily, 16 at Easter, and other high holydays near upon 40. My hearers are generally poor, and of a mean appearance. Many of them are new Comers, from the North of Ireland, who sit now in pews formerly possessed by those who were reputed Gentlemen. So great a Change have I lived to see in my Congregation.

With much ado, I collected as much money as bought me a Surplice, but some grand Villain has not suffered us to enjoy it long. We are now where

we were, and like to continue so, unless you please to use your interest to relieve our misfortune. We want, likewise, a larger Church Bible, to supply the dimness of my eye. This I hope you'll take into consideration. The bearer, M^r. William Carry, lived in this Town, as a preacher to a Meeting, above a twelve Month past, in high esteem for his virtue and learning. How far I was instrumental to gain him to our side, I shall not presume to say. You'll find, by his ample Credentials, how worthy he is for your regard, and how fit for the service of the Society. The Church of Dover, in this Government, is now vacant, by good M^r. Frazer's returning to England. I wish M^r. Carry may be named his successor. Your assistance in forwarding his laudable design will be an indelible obligation upon, Reverend Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

GEO. ROSS.

Mr. BECKET to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

LEWES, July 3rd, 1739.

REV^d SIR,

We have lately made an agreement with a workman to finish the inside of our church at Lewes, & are to give him £55 for the work. It is high time to do it, after it has stood 17 years.

Mr. LINDSAY to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW BRISTOL IN DELAWARE, Sep^r. 29. 1739.

HON^{ble} & WORTHY GENT^l

We are so surrounded by Quakers & Dysenters in the parts where my services are employed, that in short I dare not almost insist upon any contributions, so many reflections are so ready to be thrown to hinder others to join in with us & in fear of losing any of their party's. There is not I believe one missionary, who Labours under my disadvantages. The places where I officiate at, are all new fully stocked with professions Enough, and tho' often differing with one another yet unanimously agreeing to oppose the Church and its interests, amusing the ignorant, that next comes down,—Bishops courts and tythes, and not a little industrious to wrest and abuse the very offices, and Services of our Church, for fear of losing any ground.

Mr. USHER to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER IN KENT COUNTY, Oct. 27, 1740.

REV^d SIR,

Next to a thorough sense of having discharged my duty, the good effects my labours have had upon those committed to my charge, gives me the greater satisfaction. My congregation visibly increasing daily. I Preach at 4 different Parts of the County, and hitherto neither the excessive heat in the summer, nor Cold in the winter, have prevented my preaching to each of my congregations, once a month, except in case of indisposition. At my first arrival, there was a brick church begun in Dover, which is now finished, and 2 wooden Chapels begun, which I hope to see finished before the spring.

The Churchwardens & Vestry to the Society.

(EXTRACT.)

BRISTOL, Oct., 1740.

GENTLEMEN:

The favours we have already received from your society encourage us to ask yet a further favor from you. We understand that, by a letter from your Secretary, you have been pleased to dispense with the Rev^d M^r. Lindsay's further attendance here, and have appointed the Rev^d M^r. Cambell, of Burlington, to officiate in his place. Pray, Gentlemen, as you are strangers to these parts of the Country, give us the liberty, without offending you, to represent to you the inconveniences of the same. The Ferry from one place to the other is a full mile over, the passage often dangerous and sometimes not passable for several weeks together, which render divine service here very uncertain; and therefore the greatest part of our Congregation, who live 7 or 8 miles distant, and sometimes further, chose rather to join themselves to other societies, where their worship is more certain than to come so far upon so great uncertainty. Our sick are seldom visited, the greatest part of our dead we are obliged to bury without further Ceremony than barely committing them to the ground, and our infants often dye unbaptized, for want of opportunities to baptize them. These, Gentlemen, are the misfortunes we labor under. We lament, and without your assistance, cannot remedy. We therefore humbly beg the favor of you (if you think these truths a sufficient motive, and that the expence will not be too great to your Society), to send us a missionary, whose residence may be at Bristol, the only Town and Church in the County; and we assure you that we will not be wanting on our parts to do the utmost in our power to render his life comfortable and agreeable to him.

Mr. LINDSAY to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW BRISTOL UPON DELAWARE RIVER,

Nov^r 1st, 1740.

HON^{ble} & WORTHY GENT^l,

As for those that have been baptized this year, I think, from Nov^r 1st, 1739, to Nov^r 1, 1740, are 31. Two young women grown up to years were baptized by me, and I gave them in charge the great obligations they had come under, and I hear nothing to object against them, but what they are of a sober behaviour. My preaching among the people, at their houses, sometimes causes some dissenters to bring out their children to Baptism, that otherwise would not come to church, as being averse to suretyship or sponsors. It were great fault I found among the people, and what amazes me, the mean opinion they have of the sacraments. I endeavour to reconcile them to their positive institution, and by long reasonings on these heads, have brought a great many to think better.

I read a letter from the Secretary, dated April 24, 1740, which came to my hands in July 16, following in which were these words: "the society, out of regard to the laboriousness of your mission, have eased you of Bristol, and added it to the care of M^r. Campbell, of Burlington." Having considered a letter of mine, dated Feb^r 29, 1739, I beg leave to lay before you the state of Bristol Church, as I have the best reason of any man to know it, having lived now near to 6 years in that place. When I came here, in June 8, 1735, I found that church in a very mean condition. There were but 4 seats in it. Destitute it was of any minister. Its former friends were gone off to other societies, as having no stated service among them, and as little a prospect of Better times. I found none but 4 families in the Town, and 2 some miles from it. Under that melancholy prospect I begun, and reflected upon king David's advice to Solomon (1 Chron. 22, 16), arise and be doing, and the Lord will prosper you. I called a vestry, about the repairs of the Church, & Encouraged them by my residence among them, and supplying them. They built pews in the Church, they railed in the Chancel table, and fenced the

grave yard; & as curiosity first led many to see and hear the new preacher, they resorted to Church and seemed pleased, and so joyn'd among us. And, afterwards, I proposed the building of a new vestry to the Church, of Brick, which took some time before they began to do it, and I engaged to see the expences of it defrayed, because I knew that those who would not give anything for preaching could not refuse to do something to the little building, and what we could do among ourselves, with the mites of others, expected to clear it off. From a state of confusion and dispersion (by God's help), we came to be united into some order, & so continue. But the Society's letter coming now over has disheartened them all, a stop to the building being finished, & I see we doubt but all will be as before, and the church lost. The missionary of Burlington cannot supply these people to their satisfaction, for, during the winter season, the river is so blocked up with frost, that some days is passable, at other times is not, that I defy any man to keep an appointment at Bristol, That lives there. The people of Bristol formerly felt it, in M^r. Weyman's Time. Further, the people of Bristol Church lives a pretty way back—about 7 or 9 miles—that cannot attend, and requires a minister to visit there and preach among them, which I have found has done more service than purely officiating upon a Sunday in the Church.

Further, the Church of Bristol is the only Church in the whole county of Bucks, is in a distinct province, and the Town of Bristol is the chief town (tho' but small), that occasions a resort of People frequently there that generally has business with the Minister, to call him to visit their sick or bury their dead, or Baptize their infants, which lies out of the way of a Burlington Missionary.

Further, the Missionary of Burlington has long ago taken the care of a place called Allenton, in Monmouth County, 18 miles from Burlington; and from thence proceeds cranberry, 12 miles further off, 30 miles from Burlington in all. Now there are 3 places, viz., Cranberry, Allenton, Burlington; and Bristol comes in a fourth, and yet none of them all can be well attended.

M^r. Campbell, the missionary, inform'd me that he wrote home to the Society and got M^r. Vaughan, of Elizabeth Town, to join him, that the 2 Churches of Burlington and Bristol may be united in one, with a view of my going to be minister of Newark, in Essex county, in East Jersey. I refused the invitation of Newark at that time, and told them I could not leave my places without the hazard of losing all my people. If such a letter came to

the society, it was unknown to me, for I had no intention of leaving Bristol till I had got the church once well settled, and the rest of my places once in good order, and then if a vacancy happened, I should have readily accepted of it. But the view of having Bristol and Burlington united into one is an expectation of Mr. Campbell having £10 addition to his Salary, because the late Mr. Weymans, in regard of his numerous family, had £70, instead of £60. He seems to raise great hopes of it, tho' he sees plainly & is positively told by the people what great good he can be of to Bristol church.

According to the tenor of your letter to me, I have given him the charge of the church. But the people of the country has declined it, and rather than they should be dispersed, after my pains, I have promised some times to preach among them till I hear further from the society; and if I am to leave Bristol Church suddenly, I must sustain some disadvantages that are not small. For I have repaired the Glebe house, an old shattered building that was formerly made tenantable at my own expences, fit to live in, and then I must take care to see the charges of the vestry house cleared off, which, by my leaving them, will come hard upon me.

The yearly meeting of the quakers holds once in 2 years, at Bristol and Burlington, which occasions a minister to supply constantly there at both places; and upon my coming to Bristol, the quakers built up a new meeting-house, & provides some speakers to keep their followers together, lest they might drop off to the Church, for my baptizing of some quakers lately has raised a great uneasiness among them, and the people of Bristol are so sensible of the great loss of my going away, that they have drawn up a Petition for a resident minister of their own, to be presented to your honorable Board, which, if rejected, or my leaving them, then farewell Bristol Church for ever, to the loss of a poor but promising place, to the rejoicing of the quakers, & the sport of the whitfield followers hereby.

As for Trenton, I supply there once in a fortnight, and we hope to have a church built there in that Town. I promised to contribute liberally for the encouragement of it, and in a little time, it's to be hoped, will bring it about. It's as thriving a growing place as any in new Jersey. The Governor of Jerseys, Coll^r Morris, lives now there among them, and it's to be hoped his influence may be of service. As for Amwell, I supply it occasionally, as the circumstances of things admit of. I have been there lately, the beginning of Oct^r last, but, alas, what unhappy disorders are got there, by the Preachings

of the famous Mr. Whitfield and his sect. Nothing but despair, melancholy, outcries of Damnation, are now to be heard. A sober, rational preaching is now despised, as a book tract. That Mr. Whitfield has endeavored to hurt the designs of the worthy society where ever he comes, nay, in short, of the body of the Church of England, among a poor, ignorant people, where he gets large collections (as he says) for the orphan house of Georgia. But I'm not without hopes that the people will think better. There are some sensible people strangely misled, but these enthusiastic fervours will cool among them after a little. Now Bristol people, Trenton, Amwell (Hope well joyns to Trenton), These places are my charge in the mean time, which I take punctual care to supply, not only upon Sundays, but many week days. I live peaceably and in tolerable esteem among the people. My only view, if once well to settle and compact them together, and embrace the first vacancy of one particular place in the Society's grant in these parts, and let another succeed to my charge. As for what Bounty, as subscriptions, I have, is next to nothing, but yet, for all, I will not be discouraged. The good that may be done will stand in stead, when the gains of Time perishes from me, and as I have so worthy, so honorable employers, I'm sure I can never sink or fall in the discharge of my function, and the late notice taken of me in their abstract.

And whatever occurs in my way, I shall always notify to them, seek their advice, let them know my joys and grievances, tho' I have had encouragement some time ago from Ireland, from some worthy friends, to return there; but as the society took notice of me six years ago, pays my salary and supports me, no inducements shall ever make me desert their services, while I am able to stay, and if your stock increase, I hope you will not forget me. I'm for encouraging the Building of 2 churches in my mission, and has promised to Lend my help that way. Every thing is pretty dear and expensive, which obliges me to great frugality.

As for London Grove and Whiteclay Creek, I have not been there of a considerable time, by reason of their being supply'd by one Mr. Gordon, who came from the see of Londonderry, in Ireland. The man behaves well as yet, but I propose (God willing), In the Spring to pay them a visit for 3 weeks. There are several clergymen comes over here, wanting settlements upon the continent, some of which are of no good conduct, but as for this Gordon, I have never heard any objections to him as yet. I hope what I've writ may be

satisfactory to the Hon^{ble} Society, and in the next I hope to be able to say further.

Now I shall take leave, and return my sincere and hearty thanks for former and late favours Rec^d from you, and my most hearty prayers to the great God are never wanting for your prosperity and success in your glorious designs of advancing our redeemers kingdom; & that you may live to hear of your success in your designs upon earth, and at length accept the glorious rewards of your charity and goodness in eternal life—Is what offers your dutiful and obliged missionary and servant.

W. LINDSAY.

P. S.—Please to signify to me by the first opportunity your sentiments with respect to Bristol Church, for I have but too much Reason to foresee the dispersion of them poor people. I hold myself in Readiness to obey any orders that the Hon^{ble} Board shall give me.

Mr. WILLIAM BECKETT to the Secretary.

LEWES IN PENNSYLVANIA, April 25th, 1741.

REV^d SIR,

It is surprising to observe how the vulgar every where are inclined to enthusiasm. Mr. Whitefield had a vast crowd of hearers at Lewes in May last, where he preached 4 or 5 times from a balcony—I beleive sometimes to not less than 14 or 1500, of all sorts. They contrived, unknown to me, to set up a religious Society. Some of the Church people (a few, for they made up not above 30 of all sorts), joined them, but still they came to Church on Sundays and Holidays. By using them with moderation, I prevail'd with those that used to receive the Sacrament not to break Church communion, so they received on Easter Sunday. But this humour of theirs seems like all other

violent things, not to be of long continuance, for they are dropping from one another, both here and elsewhere, thro' this Province, as I am informed. God only knows what may be the issue of these things at last. We can only trust in God, and do our duty.

I remain, Rev^d Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

WM. BECKET.

Mr. GEO. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, Aug^t 4th, 1741.

REV^d SIR,

As to my proper charge, the Church in this Place is in a state of peace and unity, While the flame of dissention scorches the neighbouring Meetings. This they owe to their fondness of that wild enthusiast, Whitefield, who, when he found he could not sow his tares in the field of our Church so plentifully as elsewhere, recommended a set of men among the Presbyterians as unruly as himself, as the only Ministers fit to be heard and followed. And they have answered his purpose by raising of a New Sect from among themselves, more angry and more fierce than any that as hitherto sprung from the unhappy seperation.

I have a few of Whitefields admirers among my Flock, but gentle lenitives have kept them as yet from breaking thro' the fold. I live in good harmony with the Dissenters in this Village; the moderate part of them frequent my Church with as much freedom as they are wont to resort with to their own meetings.

Your most Obedient Servant,

GEO. ROSS.

Mr. GEORGE ROSS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW CASTLE, June 3^d, 1742.

REVEREND SIR,

I have had no uneasiness given me from the People among whom I serve, save from two or three weak creatures who have absented from some time from Public worship, under the notion of New Light & conviction; one of whom, a young woman, had such fits of conviction, or rather disturbed imagination, that she made the very bed whereon she lay to shake & tremble with her violent agitations. Several in her condition made away with themselves, and her friends were apprehensive her new Religion would terminate in the same fearful end. But, thro' mercy, she is upon the mending hand, & attends the church in some measure as heretofore. This delusion is owing to Whitefield's partizans, who, breaking through the rules of their own professed discipline, are turned Universalists, in scattering their wildfire throughout the whole country. Their appearing in Print has given their opponents a handle to expose their madness; and many who were carried away with their raging novelty, are come to their sober senses.

I am, Rev^d Sir,Your most obliged & most h^{ble} Serv^t,

GEO: ROSS.

Mr. BECKET to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

LEWES IN PENNSYLVANIA, Sept^r 26, 1742.

REVEREND SIR,

I acquainted you in my last, of March 29th, with the state of my Parish (a whole county), and it is much in the same state as yet, viz^t: My Churches are

full on Sundays & Holydays, & in the Summer my Churches (4 in number) will not hold the congregations, so that I am often obliged to preach under the Green Trees, for Room, for Shade, and for fresh air.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Enthusiasm now abates as fast as it once increased here. Mr. Whitefield's Proselytes have recanted; some of them (the most considerable), in Print. And the truth is, your Missionaries have conquered & convinced them, not so much by opposition, as by patience & studying to be quiet, and to mind their own business.

You will find my last $\frac{1}{2}$ year's Notitia on the other half sheet.

I remain, Rev^d Sir,

Your most Obed^t H^{ble} Serv^t,

W^m. BECKETT.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, March 6, 174;.

REVEREND SIR,

I acquainted you more than once that the Flock with which I am intrusted is what Grotius understands by that expression, little strength in Apocalyps, 3 chap. 8 v., Modic Ecclesia: a mean, ordinary congregation, both in respect of number and substance. This ebb of the church here can be by no means laid to my charge, for all the country about me can bear witness to my diligence in the execution of my Function, & to this purpose I besought our Governor to testify to the Society in my behalf, & to let them know the source of the poor appearance he observes among us, and this he promised to do with his convenience. The truth is, the Village is in a ruinous condition, without Trade, & meanly inhabited; & most of the few that inhabit it are strongly prepossessed against our way, and tho' the Meeting House be deserted, they choose to stay at home, rather than attend our worship. This is matter of fact, as to those in years, but the Youth in Town are otherwise inclined. There are several of them who are my constant hearers, & some have applied to me for Prayer Books, which I am resolved to supply them with, even at my own Expence, for I might disoblige them should I put them off with the hopes

of a supply from home. This good disposition in the rising generation makes me hope that the Church here will recover its former lustre, & be entitled to your regard [more] than it is at present. The communicants are persons of very orderly lives, & it is & shall be my endeavour to gain over to their number as many as possibly I can; & in this I trust I shall succeed, there being the greatest harmony betwixt me & my People. I have nothing more of moment to offer to your consideration at this time, and so remain,

Rev^d Sir, &c.,

GEO: ROSS.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE, Nov' 23, 1745.

REVEREND SIR,

As to the church whereof I am a Servant, it is for the most part of my own training up. I have been now about 40 years in the Mission, & most of my present hearers I have Baptized & catechized myself, & if I might express myself without imputation of vanity, they are as true conformists, both in principle & practice, as any congregation upon this main. 'Tis no small advantage to the church here, as to its quietness and increase, that the Meeting House is wholly deserted. The Inhabitants of this Village must now either come to our church or sleep at home. The latter, the old folks, whose prejudices are deeply rooted, choose to do. The former, the younger sort, comply with, as being free from the frightful denunciations of an Evening Lecture.

Our place of Worship is in good repair, having a Steeple with a Bell, fit for our purpose. As old communicants die, so new ones succeed almost in number equal, & this is the reason why my account in this point is much the same from year to year. Divine Service is duly performed at stated times, tho' I am pretty far advanced in years. I intend, if providence allows it, to visit my neighbouring vacant church as often as I can this Winter Season, hoping you'll take their case into your consideration, with your convenience.

I am, Rev^d Sir, &c.,

GEO: ROSS.

Mr. USHER to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

LEWES, Dec^r 26, 1745.

REVEREND SIR,

It is with great pleasure I acquaint you of the flourishing state of my churches in Sussex County. They are full on Sundays of devout attendants on our Service, & the Dissenters constantly attend and like our church better than they have done heretofore. So that I am in hopes my congregation will increase daily. The distance of my four Churches, one from another, and my attendance at Dover, once a Month, seems too hard for me. But all this I think little of, being determined to spend the remainder of my days in diligently performing the duties of my station, & enlarging the Kingdom of Christ in this world. Since my last I have baptized 16 children, some of them being the children of Dissenting Parents, who, having no Teacher of their own denomination, have applied to me to baptize their children.

~~Very truly~~ I am, Reverend Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR USSHER.

*Mr. READING to the Secretary.*APOQUINIMINCK, Nov^r 14, 1746.REV^d & WORTHY SIR,

By this first opportunity of a conveyance to England I presume to acquaint you of my safe arrival at New York, about the middle of July last, immediately upon which I repaired to my Mission, and made so good dispatch as to enter upon the Ministerial duty here on the 27th of the same month. The Members of the Church of England seem well pleased with my quick return from Europe, and express a grateful sense of the Societies tender con-

cern for the spiritual welfare, promising to acknowledge it by paying a due respect to them in person of their Missionary. The congregation here, as well as at St. George's Chappel, seems numerous. Several Dissenters come to Church on Sundays, and behave decently and reverently during the time of Divine Service. Our own professed Members are very steady and firm in their adherence to and attendance upon the sacred ordinances, while all around is in confusion, the wild notions of Methodism having spread themselves as wide in this as in any part of Pensilvania. I have, however, good grounds to believe that the Congregations under my care will behave with that circumspection as to be deserving of the notice the Society have already been pleased to take of them. But of this I must defer a more perfect account, having been sick of an intermitting fever (the epidemical distemper of this Country), from the middle of August till the latter end of October, which prevented my officiating among my people, and visiting them in the manner I proposed. But I thank God I am now upon the recovery, and hope by close application, with the divine blessing on my endeavours, to retrieve the lost time, and to have the pleasure of soon informing the Society of my good success; though I cannot say that this sickness has been altogether without disappointment to my people, who were thereby almost deprived of all spiritual assistance, to which I presume to add that it has been no small prejudice to me in my own private affairs. The Letters you was pleased to put in my hands for the Missionaries in these parts, I took care to have conveyed as directed. Those for Mr. Locke and Mr. Bluet, I put into the hands of Mr. Commissary Tenney, of which I gave them immediate notice. I took this method, because I did not care to trust them by any private hand, and have long since heard that they have entered upon their respective Missions. The Members of the Church, lately built at Duck Creek, about twelve Miles distant from Apoquinimink, have engaged with one Mr. Francis Poulteney, to read prayers and preach to them on Sundays, and intend to Petition the Society to have him established as a Missionary among them. I have no personal acquaintance with this Gentleman, but hear that he has officiated both in Virginia and Maryland, and that he labours under a very ill fame, and am farther credibly informed that he has not taken care to preserve his reputation unblemished, even during the short time of his residence at Duck Creek, but has given great offence in point of sobriety and moral prudence. I think it my duty to lay this before the Society, presuming that they particularly ex-

pect it from those who are in their immediate service, since they give a general invitation to every one, by the sacred name of Christ, to lay before them such kind of informations. I am, with all duty and respect to the Honorable Society,

Reverend Sir,

Your most obliged humble Servant,

PHILIP READING.

Mr. READING to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

APOQUINIMINCK, Sept' 30, 1747.

REV^d WORTHY SIR,

It is with unspeakable satisfaction that I can inform the Society that the Churches within my Mission flourish to the highest of my expectations. During this Summer I have paid several Visits to the remote parts of my Mission, particularly to the Church at Duck Creek (the Gentleman mentioned in my last being dead), where I officiated several Sundays, in the Afternoon, after having performed Divine Service at my proper parochial Church (tho' with great fatigue, it being 12 miles distant from Apoquiniminck), to very numerous & attentive Congregations, there being generally two & sometimes 300 hearers. On Sunday, the 18th of June, I took an opportunity of visiting a bye corner of this part of the Province, where several poor Families inhabit a Neck of Land that stretches out into the great Bay of Delawar. Here I read Divine Service & preach'd to a very large Audience, and administered Baptism to 5 Adults, having first duly prepared them by Examination, and to 15 Infants, one or two entire Families making application for that Holy Sacrament. The people were much pleased with my Visit, a Minister of the Church of England being what they had never seen among them before; and many after this, who hitherto had known no distinction of the Sabbath but by Drunkenness or idle sports & pastimes, now became serious attendants upon the Church. But the sickly season approaching, a stop was put for some time to these excursions, for, at the close of the Summer, I was seized with a violent

Fever, under which I lay for some days at the point of death. But, blessed be God, I am now so far recovered as to be able to attend the duties of my Function, though, through my low condition, not without the greatest hazard. But I shall never esteem any risque too great, so long as I can in the least promote those ends for which the Honble Society were pleased to admit me into the number of their Missionaries. My Catechumens this Summer were 27. The whole of the number Baptised 56, among which were Six Negroe Infants; and I have added 5 to the number of Communicants. I am, with dutiful respect to the Honble Society, Rev^d Sir,

Your most obedient, most humble Servant,

PHILIP READING.

Mr. BLUETT to the Secretary.

DOVER, IN KENT ON DELAWARE, March 28, 1748.

REVEREND SIR,

I wrote you in my last that I hoped to get some account of the numbers of Inhabitants that are of the Church of England, by getting a List from the Sheriff of the Taxables in the County, but have not been so happy as to see him since; but the many that are Buryed in the Church Yard, in proportion to those who are Buried elsewhere, some burying in their own Orchards, as being too far to bring the Presbyterians in their own Burying Ground, & the Quakers and the Roman Catholicks at their own Plantations, makes me hope I shall find the number greater than I expected. The sickness that proves so mortal here is a sort of Pleurisy. Most that have not had them are seiz'd with the Measles, and when they are seemingly on the recovery, are taken with the Pleurisy, which suddenly carries them off, so that hardly a day passes but we have an account of 2, 3, or 4 deaths, & some times more. We have buried in our Church Yard some days one, often two or three. I wrote you word of a Publick Fast, to be held on the 7th of Jan'y last, and the occasion of it, on which day I preached to the greatest audience I have seen since I came here. The Mortality I mentioned above, together with a late piece of News from Jamaica, that Don Pedro (a famous Privateer at the Havannah,

that infested these coasts last Fall), has fitted out 25 Sail of Privateers, at the Havannah, and will surely attend them in his own Ship of 32 Guns, to cruize off Cape Henry (a Head of Land between Cheasapeake Bay and our Bay of Delaware), has struck a great terror in many of the Inhabitants of these parts, The Quakers, having some time ago absolutely refused to assist in any shape in their own or other's Defence, as contrary to their Religious principles, the other Inhabitants, all over Pennsylvania and these Countys, have signed associations to hold tog^r in defence of their own Libertys—Religious and Civil—which, by God's Blessing, I hope may tend much to abate the animosities among us, & healing those unhappy differences too common among Christians. Unanimity, Mutual Love, and Charity are y^e subjects on which your Missionaries are universally employed and earnestly pray for, and self Defence proved lawful, & much recommended, in w^{ch} the Ministers of all other denominations, to do them justice, zealously join.

Since my last, I have baptized 11 Infants. There was a Quaker woman that sent to me to Baptize her, being dangerously ill; but I was unable, being down myself with a Pleurisy. Brother Usher being happily up here, I sent to get the favour of him to go, w^{ch} I hear he did, and that she is in a fair way of recovery. So soon as I am able to ride, I purpose, God willing, to visit her. I have nothing to add, but my humble duty to the Honble Society, and am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

THO^s. BLUETT.

Churchwardens of Dover to the Society.

DOVER, June 16, 1748.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS:

We, the Church Wardens and Vestry, belonging to the Church in Dover, in Kent County on Delaware, humbly beg leave to return our sincere and most hearty thanks for the great favour & pious care which your Honble Society have been pleased to show & continue towards us, & especially for your speedy & tender regard to our humble request & mellancholy circum-

stances occasioned by the decease of the Rev^d M^r. Morris, your late Missionary here, whereupon (as the Rev^d D^r. Bearcroft, in his Letter of April y^e 3^d, 1746, has certified), you were pleased to appoint the Rev^d M^r. Bluitt to be your Missionary here, with a Sallary as usual; being a person well recommended to your Society for his good life and sound doctrine.

We humbly hope your Honours will please to excuse us for being so late in the thankful acknowledgment of this your pious care & bounty, w^{ch} was not for want of a real sense of our many obligations to your Honorable Society. But we are at a loss with respect to M^r. Bluitt, whose former character here, as to his Morrals, was such as would not admit us to express any satisfaction by his coming. On the other hand, we were unwilling to shew any dislike to a person whome your Hon^{rs} had been pleas'd to appoint; Especially as we did not know but he might have been reform'd, so that part of our duty was delaid.

The Rev^d M^r. Bluitt, at his first coming, before he mov'd his Family from Somerset, was inform'd by such of the Wardens & Vestry as then met, that the People of this County had generally such a very ill opinion of him, that he had no reason to expect any contributions from them, except by an agreeable Life & Doctrine, he sho^d render himself serviceable to the Congregation, or words to that effect.

But, allas! such was our misfortune & poor M^r. Bluitt's unhappiness, that he had not long been with us before he appeared too much to verifie the character which he had here; so that many of the Congregation, Wardens & Vestry, seeing no hopes of his doing any service, but the reverse, were very desirous to obtain relief, but was unacquainted with the proper measures for that purpose. However, the former Wardens & Vestry did prepare a Letter to the Rev^d Commissary Jenney, of Philadelphia, setting forth the melancholy state of the Church here, occasioned by the ill conduct of M^r. Bluitt, and desiring his advice or assistance. But (as we suppose), partly by means of tenderness in some & doubt of success in others, it was not till lately transmitted to him; who was pleased, immediately on receipt thereof, to signifie to us in writing that we shou'd exhibit to your Honble Society the articles of our complaint, with sufficient Vouchers; whereupon we have proceeded to take the Depositions of sundry persons of credit, in order to transmit it to your Honours here with. And our complaint chiefly is that M^r. Bluitt's Life & conversation is a scandale to the Church, and such as renders him very dis-

agreeable to the sacred office of a Minister; Especially to the receiving and administering the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which has not been perform'd in our Church since his coming.

We humbly hope your Honble Society will please to take our case under your wise & pious consideration, and grant us such relief as to you shall seem reasonable. And for our parts, if we may again be blessed with a pious Minister, we are willing & expect the Congregation will also contribute freely towards his support. Now, with sincere prayers that Heaven may please to bless your good endeavours, we remain your Honour's much obliged & very humble Servants to command,

THOMAS NIXON, }
JN^o. CLAYTON, } *Church Wardens*
and others.

Mr. BLUETT to the Secretary.

DOVER, IN KENT COUNTY ON DELAWARE, June 26, 1748.

REV^d SIR,

A violent Fit of the Pleurisie and the sickness of my Family (having lost my youngest child, & my wife dangerously ill), has prevented my having anything this Quarter worth writing. I have only Baptized 7 Infants. But as it has pleased God to restore me to good Health, I purpose to go to the Back Forrests of this County, where I am told are many children to be Baptized, & give them Sermons on week days this ensuing Summer. The people, many of them being so poor, they have not Horses to attend our churches. I have nothing to add, but humble duty to the Society, and assuring them I will use my best endeavours to promote their pious and charitable intent,

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Serv^t,

THO^s. BLUETT.

D. JENNEY to the Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, July y^e 30th, 1748.

REV^d SIR,

I have the disagreeable task put upon me by the Church Wardens & Vestry Men of Dover, to send you their Petitions & Affidavits, which are enclosed with this. I believe there can be no doubt of the justness of the charge against M^r. Bluit, & indeed it is wonderful how he got into Orders, or into the Honble Society's service, & especially to be sent to a place where he formerly lived as an Attorney at Law, and was noted for the same vices which he now practiseth. The Church Warden (Nixon) sais that he is erroneous in his principles, as well as immoral in his practices. That he hath never publicly administered y^e Sacrament of y^e Lord's Supper, & will not use the Athanasian Creed on y^e days appointed. He is well known in this City, but not to his credit. It is wondered how he came to be admitted. The Friends of our Church look upon him with sorrow & shame, and our Enemies ridicule us upon his account. I have a private Letter from thence which sais that the flourishing Congregation of Dover is dispersed & like to come to nought, & all proceeds from the aversion people have to y^e ill behaviour of M^r. Bluit. It is a pity that ever M^r. Usher left that place. I submit the whole to the wisdom of the Honble Society, with my humble duty, & am, Rev^d Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

ROBT JENNEY.

P. S.—I hope you received my Letter of Thanks to the Honble Society for the appointment of M^r. Sturgeon Catechist & Assistant here. He tells me that he hath formerly & will, by this opportunity, give you a particular account of his proceedings & success. He is a very good Man, sober in his conversation, & diligent in his business.

ROBT JENNEY.

*Mr. NEILL to the Secretary.*DOVER, November y^e 8th, 1750.

REVEREND SIR,

I embrace this as the first opportunity of acquainting you of my safe arrival to this place, which was about 3 months ago, & have been unanimously received by my Parishioners with large promises; but, as touching their performance, I can say little as yet. Dover Church is in a miserable condition. It looks more like a refuge for Wild Beasts than a House dedicated to y^e service of God. They have contributed towards the repairing of it, which I hope will be finished in the Spring. Duck Creek Congregation appears very unanimous, and their Church is in tolerable good repair. There is likewise a Chappel, about 14 miles from Dover, where there is a prospect of a good Congregation. The late confusions, introduced by y^e New Lights & Itinerant Teachers of other Sectaries, having prevailed by the ignorance of the populace, hath caused great divisions—the Established Church being the mark in particular they all shot at; but blessed be God, there seems to be a stop put to their proceedings, & people begin to examine Religion with calmness and moderation. I have endeavoured, since my recovery from y^e Fever & Ague (which continued Six Weeks after my arrival), to spend what time I could in y^e respective Families of my congregation, conversing with them concerning the Doctrines of Enthusiasm & Schism, two points they seem ignorant of. The Tryal of Whitefield's Spirit & Dr. Beveridge's Sermon concerning the excellency of the common Prayer, has been of general service on these heads. As I desire nothing more than the advancing of Christ's Holy Religion, as it is by Law established, not only to render myself acceptable to y^e Venerable Board, who has counted me worthy to be in their service, but above all to be approved of in y^e day when y^e secrets of all flesh shall be made manifest; so there is nothing I desire more (next to the Grace of God), towards to my assistance, than, Reverend S^r, your pious, charitable, & prevailing Prayers for one who shall think himself always honoured by being permitted to subscribe himself,

Your humble, obed^t, & most affectionate Serv^t,

HUGH NEILL.

Mr. NEILL to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, September y^e 1st, 1751.

REVEREND SIR,

According to y^e exactest account I could make, I find the number of Taxablors or Families within this county to be 1320. Those who profess themselves of the Church of England make almost an equal balance in number with y^e Dissenters of all sorts. We have two small Quaker Meeting-houses, one independent Teacher that attends two other places of worship, one Presbyterian Meeting-house, but no Teacher, one New Light meeting-house, without any Teacher, and about five or six Families of Papists, who are attended once a month from Maryland, with a Priest. There are two churches and one small Chapple within the bounds, but none of them are finished or in good order. The people have contributed tolerably well towards repairing of them. I have the pleasure and satisfaction to see my congregations increase daily, and a number of families that were ready to be lead astray by the various sectaries are become steady attendants at Church. The number of Communicants last Christmas was twenty, and they have increased since to y^e number of Forty. I have baptized, from the 10th of last November, 177 White children and 10 adults, five of them being one family. As y^e Negroes in this place are very numerous, I have endeavour'd to use all the diligence possible concerning their instruction, by distributing his Lordship of London's Letters upon that point among the respective Families of my congregation, and appointing them to meet me every Sunday Evening at Church, for their further improvement in y^e Christian Doctrines. I bless God my labour has not been lost, for these poor creatures give constant attendance from the different parts of the Country. I have baptized 109 adults of them, and seventeen of their children, but as I am destitute of proper helps for their Instruction, I would beg the favour of y^e Venerable Society to send me a few of Lewis's Catechisms to distribute among them, which I make no doubt will tend greatly to their advantage. I have, since M^r. Usher's departure, visited the County of Sussex several times, and find the two congregations in the Country to be

regular and numerous, but that in Lewistown appears to be but small, I believe by reason of the Town going very much to decay.

I am, Rev^d Sir,

Your humble & most obedient Serv^t,

HUGH NEILL.

*The Churchwardens & Vestrymen of St. Mathew's Chapel to
the Society.*

(EXTRACT.)

SUSSEX COUNTY ON DELAWARE, Aug. 1, 1752.

We, your humble Petitioners, the Churchwardens and vestry of St. Mathew's Chapel, having been credibly informed that the Churchwardens & vestry of the Churches of Lewes & Indian River, in this County, have petitioned to your honorable Society for a Minister to attend those 2 Churches only, which we conceive will not answer the good ends & purposes by you intended, it being well known by the Rev^d M^r. Usher, our present Minister, who has promised to inform that St. Mathew's Chapel, in this part of the County where we belong, hath by much the largest congregation, who have been always Zealous to embrace ~~every~~ opportunity of joining in the Divine Service, Greatest number of Communicants, and many children Baptized, besides have subscribed the most freely to their Minister, and (God be thanked) always have kept up a good harmony, one with another.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE UPON DELAWARE, Oct^r 13, 1752.

REV^d SIR,

I am at this time upon the verge of Extreme old age, being, according to my own computation, in the 73rd year of my life, and the 47 of my mission. Hence some imagine that I am not only the oldest missionary, but the oldest man in the mission. Be that as it will, I have been very often exercised for 2 years past with those maladies and infirmities which are commonly incident to my present stage of life. This, to my no small mortification, interrupted my former correspondence with you, and perhaps exposed me to the charge of negligence. My Service at this time is confined to the mean village of Newcastle, where little or nothing occurring beside the common offices of a settled cure, it was not in my power to offer any thing to your consideration that deserved a place in your collection. As to the Behaviour of my hearers at the public worship, it is not to be complained of, save that the word *Amen*, for want of a Clerk, is much suppressed amongst us. As I am in a tottering condition, this may happen to be my last to you. If this should be the case, I beg this may transmit my most hearty acknowledgments to the Hon^{ble} Society for their innumerable favours conferr'd upon me in the course of a long mission; which, had my lot fallen any where but in a poor sinking town, would have prov'd, I believe, more Successful. I cannot clear myself from oversights & mistakes in the course of so many years, but, thank God, he has been pleased in his great goodness, to preserve me from such blots and stains as would do harm to the cause I was engaged to maintain,—the Honor, I mean, and interest of the Church of England, from which I never varied from the day I wrote man. I cannot conclude without paying my just acknowledgments to you, who upon all occasions show'd yourself a constant advocate for & real friend to,

Rev^d Sir,

Your most obliged & most humble servant,

GEO. ROSS.

Mr. USHER to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

LEWES, Oct. 18, 1752.

REV^d SIR,

The congregation of Sussex County have requested me to apply to your venerable Society, in their behalf, that no Missionary who has been bred a Dissenter, may be sent to them, because such are seldom or ever steadfast in principles, but comply too far with the Dissenters, which gives offence to those of our Church, renders the Minister contemptible in the eyes of his hearers, and consequently incapable of doing any service among them.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW CASTLE, 10th Oct, 1759.

REV^d & GOOD SIR,

It is with great Pleasure I can now acquaint you that, thro' the divine assistance, I have been better enabled to go thro' the Service of the Church and preaching than I have been for these two years past, & that I live in good Esteem with the people here, both of our own & the Presbyterian Church, which is by far the most numerous Congregation. But I am in great hopes I shall see the Congregation of the Church at New Castle flourish, to accomplish which my Endeavours shall never be wanting.

Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, May 10th, 1760.

REVEREND & WORTHY SIR,

When I wrote to you last, I acquainted you with the Resolution which the Clergy of this Province had formed of holding a Voluntary Convention this Spring. The Convention was accordingly held the 2^d of this Instant, at Philadelphia, from which I am just returned.

As Dr. Jenny was incapable to act, we chose Dr. Smith for President, who also Preached a sermon suitable to the occasion. The number of Members, including two Missionary's from Jersey, was twelve; & so many Black Gowns made no inconsiderable appearance, I can tell you, in these parts. A copy of our minutes & transactions will be laid before you, so that I need not say anything concerning them. Every thing was conducted with Decorum, & without any confusion, except what was occasioned by one turbulent member, Mr. Maclenachen, whose Behaviour Dr. Smith, I doubt not, will represent in its due Light. I sincerely wish our addresses may have their desir'd effect, for without Bishops & Ecclesiastical Discipline, our Church will languish & decline here daily.

When the Convention was on the point of breaking up, we had the pleasure of hearing you were in good health, by the arrival of Mr. Thomson, Missionary for York & Cumberland; & altho' I received no Letter by him, yet believe me there is not one to whom the account of your welfare gave a more sensible Pleasure.

In Compliance with the Society's Instructions, I send a *Notitia parochialis*, in the prescribed form; but it is impossible to draw one up with any exactness or certainty, as affairs now stand. It would be easier to ascertain the number of Inhabitants in any of the Shores of England, with the number of Baptized, Dissenters, &c., than in a County here, where no regular register being kept (except of Taxables), hundreds of the Inhabitants are not at all enrolled, & great numbers daily removing from one County & Province to another.

This Mission includes the whole County of Kent, which extends upwards

of 30 miles along the River Delaware; & as I have a Church at the extremity of each end, besides Dover, the greatest part of these Congregations is made up of Inhabitants from the borders of the two adjoining Counties, New Castle & Sussex. There are in this Country several hundreds of people who perhaps have never heard a Sermon, & do not belong to any religious denomination of Christians. Such, for the most part, are those who inhabit the large Forests which lie between us & Maryland, & the vast Marshes that stretch along the River Delaware. I went among the former of these last Autumn several times, on week days, & preached. Once I baptized 25 white children after sermon.

The People in general are very loose. The party spirit that rages among them contributes not a little to this; each Party, in order to ingratiate themselves with the Populace, inviting them to Publick meetings, which are nothing but Scenes of Drunkenness and Debauchery. I must, however, do them justice in mentioning a becoming Zeal which they discovered in repairing the Church of Dover, which lay in a most shocking Condition when I came here, but is now finished, & ornamented with a Bell, Pulpit Cloth, &c., the Donations of particular Gentlemen. I am not without hopes of seeing a further reformation, as my Churches are crowded on Sundays, & I have had such a Call for the Society's small Tracts, that they are all dispersed now to about one Dozen.

Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, Sept^r 26th, 1760.

REV^d SIR,

I have frequently mentioned to you the Dissentions & Parties among the Inhabitants, especially the members of our Church, who generally carry them to the greatest Lengths. The source of these is the annual Election of Representatives & Sheriffs, by the People. To ingratiate themselves with the people, Candidates for these Offices appointed places, where they invited the

Inhabitants to treat them with Liquor, provided for that purpose. These meetings, which were held once a week for near 2 months before Election Day, the first of Oct^r, were attended with the most pernicious consequences. The People's morals were entirely debauched at them, for he was best liked who gave the most liberal treat. By this means they became Scenes of the grossest debauchery & Vice.

I was determined this Autumn, if possible, to remove this Evil. The method I took was this: As soon as I was informed where a meeting was to be held, I gave Notice that I was to preach near that place, & on that very day. This at first drew the most serious part of my own hearers from them, as well as those of other Denominations, whose example was soon followed by great numbers. I also prevailed with the most considerable of the Candidates not to go to them, & those of less Note followed their Example.

Thus, by persuading the Candidates to stay away, Preaching near the places they were held, & setting them in that horrid light they deserved, these Riots dwindled almost to nothing. This gives me the greatest Pleasure, & the more so, as it has been in a great measure the means of increasing my Communicants to above double what they were when I first came here.

M^r. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, June 21st, 1761.

REV^d & WORTHY SIR,

It is with the utmost pleasure I acquaint you of the success I have had here in my Ministry. A perfect Harmony has hitherto subsisted between me & my people. Many reigning vices are checked, some quite suppressed, & a greater sense of Religion evidently prevails. This, however, is only the case in the parts adjacent to my Churches; for, in the large forests belonging to this Country, the Inhabitants are in a deplorable state of Ignorance. Few of them can read, & they scarce ever hear a Sermon, except when I go among them

of a week day, which I intend to do once a month, at least, during the Summer & Autumn. Relations of this sort, I am sensible, have too much the appearance of ostentation, & that in things where the greatest humility is necessary. Were it consistent with my duty, I should therefore omit giving them.

The Missionaries & other Episcopal Clergy of this Province have had another voluntary meeting at Philadelphia. We have no design but to become better acquainted with each other, & hold friendly Conferences on what may best promote the common cause of Religion & our Church. I hope, Sir, you approve of it. Did you in the least disapprove of our thus meeting, nothing would induce me to it, till you were satisfied; altho' I am convinced it can be productive of no harm, here at least, but of much good. The Congregations of White Clay Creek & New London, in Chester County in this Province, applied to our Convention to be recommended to the Society for their Bounty & a Missionary; & to have a Sermon at their Churches from the Missionaries as often as convenient, till they had one fixed among them. This last we immediately consented to, & agreed y^t the Missionaries, in their turn, should give each Congregation a Sermon every month till next May. I was the first appointed to preach to them, which I did the first Sunday & Monday of this month, to each Congregation, whose Churches are 16 miles asunder. They are decent, well disposed people, & will, I think, do all in their power to support a Missionary. At New London they are going to rebuild & enlarge their Church, but not being able to do it without assistance, they concluded to set a Lottery on foot for that purpose; & accordingly, at their desire, I drew up a scheme of one for raising £450, before we parted, but know not yet whether it will answer the end. We had no disturbance, this Convention, from Mr. Maclennachen. His followers fall off fast.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW CASTLE, 8th Oct, 1761.

REV^d GOOD SIR,

In May last, the Congregation of St. James's made application to the Clergy of Pensylv^a, then met in Convention at Philad^a, to join them in an address to the Honourable Society for a Missionary for St. James's & Fog's Manor. The circumstances of my family were such that I could not leave them at the time of the Convention, which deprived me of the opportunity of informing the Clergy there of the Situation of this intended Mission, the circumstances of the People, & such other weighty reasons, as I conceive, would have prevented any application being made to the Honourable Society on that head, or the trouble I now give you on the occasion.

The Mission of New Castle was early fixed on the first settling of this Country, & this Church of Eng^d has been constantly encouraged, as far as the Circumstances of the people could admit, to which an handsome Glebe now belongs. And as it is the ancientest Town, so it is the Seat of Government, & where, at Publick times, there is a great resort of Persons of the highest rank among us, as well as the Common Parishioners.

The Chappel of St. James's, at the extent, is not more than Eight miles distant from this town, & so much out of repair, as well as ill situated, that the Congregation there purpose to build a new one at Newport, a small Town four miles from this Town; so that it is very apparent when that is done, one Missionary may attend both places, as is frequently done at a much greater distance, in many parts of this Country. I need only name my brother Reading, whose Mission is in this Country, & who has for many years served two Churches, twelve miles distant from each other. I am therefore of opinion that Missions established so near each other would rather be an injury than service to the Church. The Harvest is very great & the Labourers few. The Country is of great extent, & inhabited by People in great distress, both in respect of themselves & their Children, other Religions spreading among them, and however well inclined, the Church of England little established.

These are the places that loudly call for the Charitable assistance of the honourable Society. We are most humbly thankful for the Care taken of us. We have two Missions in this County, within Twenty miles of each other. The deplorable condition of our fellow creatures at a much greater distance, & in more real want than those now recommended, engaged me to give this account of the state of the Church in this Neighbourhood, fully satisfied with whatever the Hon^{ble} Society, in their wisdom, shall think best to do.

I am, &c.,

ÆNEAS ROSS.

Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, November 27, 1761.

SIR,

My distance from Philadelphia, & want of a proper conveyance, have prevented me from writing to you sooner. Besides it being my duty, it is a pleasure to write, as the account I can give you of my Mission answers, I think, in some measure, the pious designs & Expectations of the worthy Society.

In an unhealthy situation, I am still blessed with a sound state of health; & of so distinguished a Blessing I would look on myself to be utterly undeserving, did I not employ it in that good cause & end for which it was given. I really do so in the discharge of my ministerial Duty, according to my best judgment and abilities; & I bless the Almighty for it, my Labours are not without a Blessing. This gives me spirits, & animates me with ardour & resolution to go through the difficulties I meet with. My Congregations continue still to increase, & by the time that all the lukewarm members of our Church in this Mission become Zealous, they may be near double what they are at present. For of these lukewarm People, there is still such a number as may truly humble a Clergyman that has been fixed any considerable space of Time

among them. The number, however, decreases, thank God, & trust it will decrease more.

My Church at Duck Creek is now too small for the Congregation. After it is quite crowded, on Sundays, there are always very many who cannot get in, nor receive any benefit by coming to it. To remove this inconveniency, the People have determined to build a new Brick Church, of larger Dimensions than the present Church, which is only wood. Undertakers have been agreed with lately to build this Church. An addition has also been made this Autumn to my Church at Mushmillion, which enlarges it above one third.

The Commissioners appointed by the Proprietors of Maryland & this Province are now running the boundary Line between the two Provinces. This Line will throw some of Maryland into this County, by which my Mission will be enlarged.

Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, June 15th, 1762.

REV^d SIR,

After the loss of our late worthy Secretary, The Rev^d D^r. Bearcroft, it gives me singular pleasure to find he is succeeded in that office by a person whose acknowledged merit & excellent Character add Lustre to it; & also give pleasing Expectations to all connected with the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign parts, to see their Affairs conducted to their satisfaction & to the best advantage. Of those who have these expectations, & have the honour to be connected with that venerable Society, I am one—their Missionary at Dover, in Pennsylvania.

Perhaps it may not be disagreeable to you, this being the first time I have had the pleasure of writing to you, to give you a short account of the state of this Mission. It may enable you to judge the better of what may hereafter occur, & may fall under your future consideration. The Mission of Dover includes the whole County of Kent, which is thirty-three measured miles in length, stretching along the River Delaware; & as the present Line between

it & Maryland runs about ten miles in Breadth, where narrowest, tho' it will be broader, by almost three miles, when the Line which is runing between it & that province is run out. The Country, for this part of the world, is thick settled, the whole County containing, at a moderate Computation, about seven thousand souls. Of those who hold religious Communion with any Denomination of Christians, of that number, upwards of one third are members of the Church of England. There are three Quakers & 4 presbyterian meeting houses. Presbyterians are much more numerous than the former.

When I first came here, in the year 1759, I found three Churches; one of Brick, at Dover, near the Center of the County, but quite out of order & indecent, without yard, without Glass, Plaister, Ceiling, Door, or Window Shutters. The other two of wood, & in the same condition; one at each end of the County, & on the great road leading thro' it. To have these Churches put into decent repair was the first object of my attention, & this I have succeeded in. The Church of Dover is now decently finished, & ornamented with a velvet Pulpit Cloth, Cushion, &c., besides a Bell, which were Donations from several Gentlemen. The Church of Mispillion, at the lower end of the County, being too small, an addition of two wings have been made to it—one to each side—and the whole is also decently finished. The Church of Duck Creek, in the upper end of the County, being too small, also, & being old besides, & decaying, the people unanimously agreed to build a new Brick Church, of larger dimensions, & after a sermon I preached on the occasion, they subscribed very liberally, according to their Circumstances. The Church is now a building, & I expect to preach in it before next Winter.

Besides these three, a fourth Church was built last Autumn, by a number of People on the Border of Maryland, who are at such a distance from any of the former, that they could seldom attend them, even in Summer. Many of them have lived for whole years together without hearing a sermon, their Children grown up ~~un~~uninstructed & uninstructed. It was this which made me consent to forward the Building of it & attend it, which I do on a week day, once a month; for I had too much Fatigue & Duty to go thro' before. The religious state of these People was truly deplorable & affecting, & as they were extremely pressing I should come among them, & cheerful in subscribing towards building the Church, tho' miserably Poor, I thought it my Duty, while Providence spared my Health, to undergo any Fatigue, rather than omit such an opportunity of doing some good among them.

This Church, which I have called St. Paul's, is a large wooden Building, at the same distance from Dover where I live, as that of Mispillion, each being Eighteen miles from it, & fifteen from each other, in the same end of the County. The Church of Duck Creek, in the other end of it, is fifteen miles from Dover. You must naturally conclude, from these distances between my Churches, that it is extremely fatiguing to attend them. Were it not that I have youth on my side, & that Providence has blessed me with an uninterrupted state of good health since I came here (which is the more remarkable as the Country is low & marshy, the Inhabitants very sickly, & my constitution weak), were it not, I say, for these, I never could attend them, or go thro' the Parochial Duties of so extensive a Mission. Should I continue here till advanced in age, or should I grow sickly, it would be impossible for me to undergo the Fatigue I have at present.

Chief-Justice HOLT to the Secretary.

LEWES, June 26th, 1762.

REV^d SIR,

Your known Zeal & attachment to the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England, as well as your being a member of the venerable & Honorable Society, *De promovendo Evangelis in Partibus Transmarinis*, and also an inhabitant of my native City (Philadelphia), emboldens me to give you the trouble of Preferring the Petition & address herewith sent, in order to get the Mission of Lewes, in Sussex on Delaware, stored & supplied with a Pastor, who may walk worthy of the Holy Vocation wherewith he is called.

And now, Sir, permit me to subscribe myself, on behalf of the Congregations of St. Peter's Church, St. George's & St. Matthew's Chappels, in Sussex aforesaid,

Rev^d Sir, your most obd^t humble Serv^t,

R. HOLT.

Mr. ROSS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

PHILAD^a, July 2^d, 1762.

REV^d SIR,

I have nothing material to communicate with regard to the Churches here under the Mission, save that I understand some people about White Clay Creek, in Newcastle County, have applied to the Society for a Missionary. Sure that people must be very unreasonable to expect it of the Society. To my certain knowledge, there are not ten families Church people in that neighbourhood. The Church is not above seven miles from Newcastle. My Hon^d Father, while Missionary at Newcastle, at their request, officiated every third Sunday in the Summer season, till they dwindled & became in a manner no people. My Brother, Eneas Ross, the present Miss^y there, would attend the few that remain, if they desire him. Surely there are many Places in this Province that stand in much greater need of such supply than that people.

The Society, I am told, allow M^r. Sturgeon, of this City, £50 sterling per annum as Catechist to the negroes. I presume he has omitted to draw for that Salary the last two years. If he has drawn for it, he has done very unfairly (to say no worse) by the Society.

Dr. SMITH'S Observations.

LONDON, Sept^r 7th, 1762.

Petition to the Society from the Three ancient Episcopal Churches in the County of Sussex on Delaware, in the Government of Pennsylvania.

N. B.—Sussex County lies on Delaware Bay & the main Ocean, about 120 or 130 miles South of Philad^a and Lewes, in the County Town.

It has been an old Mission; but about 7 years ago fell justly under the Society's displeasure, by refusing to receive M^r. Cleveland, a worthy Mission-

ary sent to them, whom they kept out of the Churches; being unhappily led into this by one M^r. Harris, a Clergyman whom they had on the Death of their former Missionary, called from Maryland to Lewis, without the Society's appointment. On Refusal of M^r. Cleveland, who soon after died at Philad^a, having been appointed Missionary at New Castle, the Society stopped the Salary usually paid to the Lewis Mission; & M^r. Harris, not being able to live without it, left that place a year or two ago. The People have seen their Error, & are heartily sorry for it, & it would be of much service to the Church to restore their Mission & send a worthy Clergyman among them, upon their giving Bond to some person there for his support.

WILL: SMITH.

M^r. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, Dec^r 2nd, 1762.

REV^d SIR,

In my last letter, by the Rev^d M^r. Duché, I gave you a brief state of this Mission. Things are now much as there were at that time, only a new Brick Church at Duck Creek, which I have called S^t. Peter's, & was begun then, is carried up side wall high, but cannot have the roof put on it, by reason of some accidents that could neither be seen nor prevented, before next Spring. This Church, when finished, will be the largest, most commodious, & decent Church in the whole Mission. The state of good health I have hitherto enjoyed in this Mission has been interrupted this Autumn. From the beginning of August till the latter end of October, I have been sadly afflicted with the fever & ague. A few days ago I had a relapse, out of which I am now recovering. It has reduced me very low, & Heaven only knows what may the Event be. The bad air in this place, with the Fatigue of attending Four Churches, three of which are thirty miles apart, brought this Disorder on me. The fatigue is in truth more than I am able to bear, & a few years must inevitably put a period to my life, if I continue to undergo it.

M^r. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, July 26th, 1763.REV^d SIR,

I can, with equal pleasure & truth, assure you that this Mission is in a flourishing state; if building & repairing Churches, if Crouds attending the public worship of God & other religious ordinances, if some of other Denominations joining us, & the revival of a spirit of Piety in many, can denominate it such. Tho' I must tell you at the same time, there is still left Lukewarmness, Ignorance, & vice enough to humble me sufficiently, & exercise, if I had it, an apostolic Zeal.

The greatest Check I have received here has been from sickness. From the first of last August to the middle of March, I do not remember that I had ten days together of sound health. This was partly owing to the unhealthiness of this Place, & partly to the excessive Fatigue I had in a Mission so extensive, in which there are four Churches, & two of these thirty-two miles apart. I live as near the Center of the County as I could conveniently fix myself. In this situation I am one mile from Dover Church; Fourteen miles from St. Peter's Church, at Duck Creek, in the upper end of the County; seventeen miles from St. Paul's Church, near Maryland, built since I came here, & where there never had been a Church before; & I am Eighteen miles from Christ's Church, at Mushmillion, in the lower end of the County. These Distances are all measured, & you may judge what fatigue it must be to attend them, besides frequent Calls to visit the Sick, to baptize, & bury.

The Congregation of Duck Creek are now putting a roof on a new Brick Church they begun last Summer. They have lately drawn a Petition to the Society, requesting that I might officiate with them the half of my time, & so be wholly fixed between them & Dover. I sincerely wish the Society would Comply with this request, provided a Missionary were sent to officiate at my two lower Churches. One Missionary could easily attend these & the upper Church of Sussex; & these Churches have desired me to assure the Society that upon their Grant of sending a Missionary, they will immediately purchase a Glebe, build an House on it, & further contribute annually to his support

what is usually required by the Society. I am so well acquainted with the People that I can engage they will comply with these Terms punctually, on the Grant of a Missionary. My two lower Churches, either by themselves or in conjunction with the upper Church of Sussex (where I sometimes preach, & have lately got the people to set about a subscription to build a new Brick Church), will do this, as the Society Pleases. These Congregations would have joined in a Petition to this purpose, but were hindered by a mistaken Delicacy & Fear to offend me, or dissolve the connections between us. I often urged them to it.

Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, Nov^r 20, 1764.

REV^d WORTHY SIR,

I now sit down to answer your Letter of the 10th of last February, which I would have done before, but that it was not in my power to satisfy you fully as to the Contents of it. You therein informed me that "the Society were willing to comply with my request, & to relieve me from part of my duty, by sending another Missionary for the People of St. Paul's Church, near Mary-land, & Christ Church, at Mushmillion," provided the Society were "previously informed for certain what sum these people will engage to contribute annually to their Minister, & also what assurance they will give of a suitable Equivalent in lieu of a House & Glebe, till one can be provided." On receiving this Letter, which was about the middle of last May, I communicated the contents of it to the several Members of these two Churches who expressed much gratitude to the Society & willingness to comply with their proposal, to the utmost of their power. I immediately opened a subscription at each of the Churches to purchase a Glebe. The Preamble I drew in such a manner that the several subscriptions are recoverable by law, if any should hereafter refuse to pay. The sum of £150 is now subscribed, & there are some subscriptions to be taken in yet. That sum only will purchase 150 acres of Land in that end of the County, for Land is there cheap. The Glebe

is to be located as near Midway between the two Churches, as a healthy situation & fertile Land can be procured. The subscriptions are to be paid & the Glebe purchased on the first arrival of Missionary; and the people solemnly promise to set about building a Glebe house immediately after.

The next & most difficult thing to be done was to fall on a method for raising an annual sum for the Missionary's support. Among a variety of methods proposed, the one I fixed on as the best & surest was this:—I asked the several owners of Pews how much they were willing to contribute annually for their respective pews to a Missionary who would attend both Churches alternately. The sums they mentioned I set down opposite to their names, & they unanimously agreed, at the same time, that if any person should afterwards refuse to pay the sum he mentioned, his pew should be taken from him, & let to another who would pay it. The sum to be paid by both Congregations amounts to upwards of £60, this Currency.

Here the affair rests, & more cannot be done before a Missionary arrives. I shall think myself happy if the Society approve the steps I have taken, & if they Judge the provision sufficient for another Missionary. With their usual Salary, I think it is; & I do assure you I had many difficulties to struggle with before I could bring matters to this Issue. Not to mention the unreasonable prejudices which may be naturally expected to possess many in such a multitude, the people are in general poor. Trade has been extremely dull & money scarce, since the Conclusion of the late War, & the Luxury which, since the commencement of that war, has flowed in upon us has no less contributed to embarrass people's circumstances. A Mad Enthusiast has lately started up near one of these Churches & did much mischief. He calls himself a Quaker. If you will recollect the Character & conduct of *Hacket*, in Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign, or of *Nailor*, in the mad times of *Cromwell*, you may form a tolerably exact Idea of this man, for he resembles them much, especially the latter. Ignorant, mad, & impious as this fellow is, yet he has deluded several, has bewildered more, & has made still more lukewarm in this affair. This circumstance, duly considered, should have some weight to induce the Society to send a Missionary to that place. It would be a real act of Charity to rescue these poor people from this man's dangerous delusions; & nothing would contribute more to this than to have a pious, active Clergyman fixed in the Place. The number of Families professing themselves Members of the Church of England in these two Congregations is not less than 150.

You have heard, no doubt, by this time that I had an invitation lately to settle at New York, as the present Rector, Churchwardens, & Vestry of Trinity Church, in that City, probably wrote to the Society to have me fixed there as Catechist, in the room of the Rev^d M^r. Auchmuty, now Rector. The whole of that affair I shall lay before you, in as few words as possible.

In February last, I was married to a most amiable, Excellent Woman, of the first family in the place. The unhealthiness of this Situation impaired her Constitution much, which was naturally delicate & tender; & this, joined to the bad State of Health I have had for some time past, made me think of Soliciting the Society for a Removal to a more healthy Mission. While I was deliberating on this, an Express brought me a Letter, on the second of August, from the Churchwardens of Trinity Church, in New York, wrote at the request of D^r. Barclay, their rector, "requesting my assistance two or three "Sundays, as D^r. Barclay was very ill & unable to officiate," and as they were "then looking out for another Minister, they hoped their Vestry & I would "come to an Agreement, & that I would remain among them, if inclined to "leave this Place." This was entirely unsolicited by me, for I was not personally known to any of them, nor did I ever know they wanted another Minister.

In consequence of their Request, I set out for New York the 11th of that month; but being unexpectedly detained a week in Philadelphia, which was in my way, they sent one of their Vestry to hasten me. But before I could set out, an account came of D^r. Barclay's Death. Embarrassed at this Event, I intended to return without proceeding further, as I judged the church must have been in some confusion. However, D^r. Smith, the worthy Provost of the College in Philadelphia, advised me to proceed, & promised to go with me. Accordingly, we set out, and reached New York the 24th. There I staid & officiated two Sundays. During this Interval, a vestry was called. M^r. Auchmuty was chose Rector. I was chose assistant to him, & catechist, provided the Society approved of me for that office. I accepted their offer, in case the Society would appoint me Catechist, for I would by no means leave their Service. When this was done, I set out with D^r. Smith for home, intending speedily to return to New York, stay a few Sundays there, & afterwards continue here till spring, & by that time the Society's Pleasure could be known.

On my return home, I found the utmost discontent among my people, at hearing of my intended Removal. This, with the Inconveniences to the Mission which must attend my removal at this Juncture, staggered me much.

Nor could any thing have induced me to persist in my resolution but my anxiety for a person's health, whose Life & happiness were dearer to me than my own.

About 3 weeks after my return home, M^r. Inglis was taken with a violent Bilious Fever, which baffled every Effort to stop it, & on the 13th of October, put an end to her Life. This Melancholy Event made a great change in the state of my affairs. My people renewed their Solicitations to continue among them, as the principal cause of my going away was now removed. The Congregation of Duck Creek declared they would lay aside all thoughts of finishing their Church if I removed, tho' the windows are now glazed. The Congregations of St. Paul's & Christ church grew sullen & would do nothing. The Enthusiast I mentioned before was elated & gained Ground. These, with other Inconveniences to the Mission which must necessarily attend my removal at this time, have brought me to a Resolution of continuing here some time longer; tho' one of the Vestry from New York was with me a few days ago, to urge my return there. I could not, with a quiet Conscience, go away now, thinking myself in some measure answerable for the consequences that might follow. Thro' the whole, I have acted from the best of my Judgment, & trust the Father of Light has directed me in this last Resolution.

Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW YORK, Dec^r 10, 1764.

REV^d SIR,

With this Letter you will receive another by the bearer, M^r. Monro, in answer to yours of the 10th of last February, in which I have laid before you the state of my Mission. In it I have also mentioned an Invitation I lately had to settle in New York, & the part I acted in that affair.

After writing that letter, I thought myself bound in honour to visit this City, & acquit myself personally from my Engagement to the Rector, Church Wardens, & people. I have found it a difficult, disagreeable Task. It is the

United, earnest request of every Rank & denomination that I would settle here. However, I am still determined not to leave my Mission till it is better settled than at present. To satisfy the importunate solicitations of the people here, I have been obliged to promise that in case my Mission can be well supplied & settled, & the Society will consent to it, I will remove here. They are willing to stay Eighteen months or two years to have this done. The Unanimity & earnestness with which I am asked here by all is undoubtedly a very great inducement to come.

It is my earnest desire, however, to continue in the Society's service. In case, therefore, my Mission could be settled in such a manner that it would be consistent with my duty to leave it, I heartily wish to be fixed in the late Catechist's place. I ask not this in return to any poor services I have done to the Society, but from an earnest desire to concur in promoting this part of their benevolent design, & firm resolution of doing so to the utmost of my power. I shall, however, acquiesce in whatever the Society determine.

I must beg leave again to desire that my mission may be taken into consideration, & the proposed Division made. It will be otherwise impossible for any Missionary to attend it. I had an excellent Constitution when I went there, & thro' fatigue it is now much impaired, in the space of five years, & declining. Be pleased to write to me soon, & let me know what the Society's pleasure is.

Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, July 2, 1765.

REV^d SIR,

By a Letter from the Rev^d Mr. Peters, Rector of Christ Church, in Philadelphia, now in England, to Dr. Smith, of Philadelphia, I have received Information that the Society have come to a resolution to open a new mission at Christ Church, in Mispillion, & St. Paul's Church, near Maryland, in the lower end of this County. This gives me inexpressible Pleasure, as it will be a great means of promoting the Interest of our Church here, & I hope the Salvation of many Souls.

The affairs of this Mission are much in the same state as when I wrote last. The Congregations where the new Mission is to be opened are still unanimous, & desirous to have the design carried into execution. Tho' in general poor, they are willing to do what is in their power, & necessary on their part. The wealth of the Inhabitants in this part of the world depends in a great measure on the Fertility of the Soil, & the Lands thereabout are for the most part sandy & barren. This occasions poverty. There will be a subscription sufficient to purchase a Glebe for this new Mission of 150 Acres at least. The Glebe is to be purchased when a Missionary arrives, located as near as it conveniently can to the Center between the two Churches, & a Glebe House built, should there be no House on the Farm that is purchased. The annual Salary which the two Congregations have engaged to pay will amount to £60, this Currency.

I hear a Missionary is appointed for Lewis Town, in Sussex County. I am extremely glad of it. A Missionary is much wanted there. I have preached three or four times each year, for three years past, at Cedar Creek Church, in the upper part of that County.

The Church of Cedar Creek being wood, very old & much decayed, I persuaded the Congregation to set about building a new Church. They have opened a subscription for that purpose, & have begun to prepare the materials for a Brick Church, whose dimensions are to be 40 feet by 34, with Galleries.

The vicinity of this Church to that of Mispillion & St. Paul's, being only 8 miles from the former, would make it very convenient for one Missionary to attend the three. Nor would this injure the Mission of Lewis Town. Cedar Creek is 18 miles distant from that Town. The Lines between this Province & Maryland are now run out & fixed, according to a decree in Chancery for that purpose; & the Division, in all probability, will take place as soon as the Commissioners for the Division here have transmitted an account of it to the Proprietors of both Provinces. By this Division, Sussex will be twice as large as it is at present. One or two Maryland Churches will be thrown into the lower end of it; so that the Missionary will have a Mission sufficiently extensive, in case Cedar Creek were added to the new Mission here, & the whole County better served. This, however, I submit to the Judgment of the Society.

I wrote to you in last Nov. & Dec'. Both my Letters went by M^r. Monro, from New York. As that Gentleman got safe to England, I conclude you

received my Letters. I then laid before you the state of this Mission, & also informed you of a call I had to New York; of my being elected by the Rector, Churchwardens, & Vestry of Trinity Church, to be an Assistant there. I need not now repeat again what I said then, as I make no doubt but you received my Letters.

It gives me much uneasiness that you returned no answer to these Letters, & it leaves me much in the Dark, too. It was, & is still, my Choice to settle in New York. Yet, I would not think of moving but in such a manner as is consistent with the Interest of this Mission, & the Order of our Church. I have the highest sense of both these, and would not willingly do anything contrary to either. When I first resolved to move, it was with a view to preserve the Health of a person whose life was dearer to me than my own. The Melancholly Event justified my apprehensions of the Danger that person was in; nor did I even then consent to move till Dr. Smith engaged that the Rev^d Mr. Murray, of Reading, would supply my place till the Society's Pleasure could be known, & the Mission otherwise provided for.

However, when it pleased the Almighty, soon after, to deprive me of her for whose sake I then wanted to move, & on finding that some inconveniences would arise to the Mission, by moving at that time, I concluded to stay here till the Mission was divided, & proper persons provided for both. The New Yorkers, at the same time, insisting on keeping my place vacant till this could be done. All this I informed you of in my last Letters, at large; & the case & Facts were exactly such as I represented them. The part I had to act was often delicate & difficult. Whatever I did was from the best of my Judgment, after consulting with my Bretheren. The Interest of our Church I ever had in view; & as there is nothing on Earth I desire more earnestly than to see her flourish, I pray the father of Light to order the Event as will be most conducive to that purpose.

In May, I received Letters from the Rector, one of the Church Wardens, several of the vestry, & other members of the Congregation at New York. They are still desirous that I would settle among them. It would be my choice to do so. I have little prospect of ever recovering my spirits here to such a degree as will enable me to discharge my duty with satisfaction to myself, or advantage to others, as formerly.

The state of my Health will make it necessary for me to leave this Place for two or three weeks in the month of August, being very unhealthy &

dangerous to Strangers. I intend to pay a visit then to New York. I shall write to you from thence; & if the affairs of that Congregation are such as will require me to settle there, I hope the Society will not be averse to it.

*Extract of a Letter from CHAS. RIDGELY, Esq., of
Dover, to The Rev^d Mr. INGLIS.*

"Dated DOVER, Oct^r 31, 1766.

"DEAR SIR,

"I thank you for the Information you give concerning the adding the Dutch Creek Church to the Apoquinimick Mission, which I had heard nothing of before, except a slight intimation from M^r. Andrews (this Gentleman has gone to England to take Holy orders & apply for the Mission of Lewes) who was down among us a few weeks ago, & to whom I delivered my sentiments with much freedom.

"I am not a little surprized that a measure should be entered on without consulting that of the Dover Congregation, which I am well assured has been the Case. All with whom I have yet conversed about it express both surprise & dissatisfaction; & if our Church affairs continue for a few years longer to be conducted in this imprudent manner, we shall cease to be a Church in this part of the world.

"You know well, sir, that the existence of this or that society depends solely upon the good opinion & Inclination of People in general, & if the people become displeased with the measures pursued, & especially if they think them arbitrary, they will certainly separate & dissolve the Union, or reject the plan in general, & adopt one more agreeable to their inclination. One or the other will certainly happen among us, unless our people are treated with more respect. Not a man in either Congregation in this County was ever consulted about this affair, that I have heard of. It has been proposed & carried on by those who know nothing of our situation; & to do a favour to one man have disoblged two large Congregations. This is playing the Game into the Hands of the Enemies of our Church, & who will

"not fail to improve the opportunity. You know well, sir, that passion frequently does in an instant what prudence can never undo. I sincerely wish this matter may not be productive of some schism, or other bad consequence to the Church.

"The Division you proposed of the Churches in this County was never objected to, that I know of, & the reason is plain: because the principal persons in the County were convinced the Division was judicious, & well adapted to the circumstances & situation of the people. Two Clergymen, with a little help from home, may certainly be supported here; & two are undoubtedly necessary. The greatest part of the Dissenters reside down the County; & among these a Clergyman ought surely to be, or we shall not have a Churchman there soon.

"What can a Clergyman residing at Dover do? Perhaps he does not see the greatest part of the lower Congregations once a month; & members are often lost to the Church for want of his wholesome & frequent admonitions, the dissenting Teachers, in the meantime, being constantly among them, & very assiduous.

"It is needless to enlarge on this subject. You well know the situation of all our Churches; that some people about Dover contributed handsomely to the Duck Creek Church, but upon the presumption that the two Churches were to continue under one Missionary. They had no thought of providing for one inhabiting another County; & indeed it is very hard that a person who was at no trouble about that Church should enjoy all the advantages of it.

"If you think it worth while to mention this affair to the Society, I am convinced it would be very kindly taken by our people in general.

"I sincerely wish we had one or more Bishops in America, with such a limited power as you mention. It would, I believe, remedy or prevent many Evils, & could introduce none.

"I am, &c.,

"CHA^s. RIDGELY."

*Mr. INGLIS to the Secretary.*NEW YORK, Dec^r 1st, 1766.REV^d SIR,

Before I left the Mission at Dover, the Society consented to divide that Mission, in consequence of the Representations made by the Inhabitants & myself of its expediency. Accordingly, the Rev^d Mess^{rs}. Giles & Wilson were appointed to the two Missions, but their untimely Death prevented those good effects which might be reasonably expected from this measure.

Since that time, I have been informed that it has been recommended to the Society to join the Church at Duck Creek to the Mission of Apoquinimink. I thought it my Duty to mention the inconveniences that would necessarily attend this step, in some former Letters to you; & the knowledge I have of the state and circumstances of Kent County, enables me to judge pretty clearly of this point.

At first I had but a slight hint of this affair; but when assured that it was in agitation, I wrote to a Gentleman in Dover about it. He is a very worthy member of our Church, & a vestryman. I informed him of what I heard—"of a representation to the Society that Duck Creek might be joined "to Apoquinimink. I desired his opinion of it; requested that he and others "would acquiesce in the Society's determination, should they think proper to "take this step. That in case they did so, it was purely thro' want of Mission- "aries, of which he might be convinced by their readiness to make the former "Division, as soon as proper persons offered to supply the Missions."

Herewith I send you his answer, so far as it relates to this affair. By it you may plainly perceive the sense he has of this new proposal; & you may be assured that the sentiments of the principal people in both Congregations are the same with his.

The more Notice should be taken of what he says, as he is one of the most leading men in that County, & a firm, Zealous Friend to our Church. I must beg leave to observe to you further, that the want of respect to the Congregations, & of prudence in conducting their Affairs by him mentioned, relates to this affair, in which they have not been consulted; & to a former proposal that a person should succeed me, when I first engaged to move

to New York, who was disagreeable to them, but of which I believe the Society know nothing. And the persons he aims at, who shewed this disrespect & imprudence, are some on this side the Atlantic, not the Society, for whom I can aver that he & the other members of our Church in that County have as true a respect as any on this Continent. I hope you will also make the necessary allowances for a private Letter between friend & friend, which the writer had no intention to subject to the inspection of strangers.

I am persuaded that joining Duck Creek to Apoquiminck will be attended with bad consequences. It is improper in itself for many reasons. For this in particular, that instead of relieving the Missionary of Dover from Fatigue, it will subject him to more. The reason of this I pointed out in a former letter. It will very much disoblige the Congregations of Dover & Duck Creek; not thro' any aversion to the present very worthy Missionary of Apoquiminck, but because of their situations and connections, they think they ought to be joined, as the Society have already consented. In consequence of that consent, the Inhabitants of Dover contributed largely towards building the New Church at Duck Creek; for, as they were to have the same Missionary, & their vicinity would enable them to attend Divine Service there, especially in good weather, they considered themselves in some measure as one Congregation. But if Duck Creek is joined to Apoquiminck, & under a different Missionary, they will look on themselves as quite detached from it, & consequently injured.

As to the two lower Churches, where the new Mission was to be opened, they will be in no better situation by joining Duck Creek to Apoquiminck than they were formerly. The Inhabitants of Dover will not be satisfied with less than the half of a Missionary's time, & indeed they are intitled to it. By this means the two lower Churches will have a Sermon only once a month each, & this they had in my time. Every fourth Sunday I preached at one, & at the other on the Monday immediately after. But this is too seldom. These are the Churches that require Sermons oftenest, & to be best attended.

But, besides, should Duck Creek be disposed of as above, all thoughts of dividing the Mission, as formerly proposed, must be dropped. Yet this is the only method that can be fallen on to make it flourish, nor can any Missionary otherwise continue longer in Dover, who faithfully discharges his duty, the Fatigue will be so great. And, further, should Duck Creek be joined to Apoquiminck, the subscriptions of the two Congregations of Christ Church,

at Mispillion, & St. Paul's, near Maryland, for purchasing a Glebe & building a Parsonage house, will be entirely lost, as well as their Bond to pay £20 sterling per annum to their Missionary, now in my possession, but came to hand too late to be sent by Mr. Wilson to the Society.

There are few places where a Missionary is more wanting, for many reasons, than at these two Churches. The Congregations are large—the largest in Pennsylvania, except those of Philadelphia. I know several Missions now supplied, where the number of Church people altogether is not so great as either of these. The people are in general poor, yet willing at present to contribute all they can to the support of a Missionary. They are ignorant, & therefore may be easily seduced by the various Sectaries that abound & are active among them.

Should the present opportunity of opening a Mission there be passed over, I question whether another will offer. It cost me many years' labour, & the exertion of what influence I had over the people, to bring matters into the state they were when I left Dover. But if they have not a Missionary, as they expected—what thro' Discouragement by the disappointment; what by decrease of their number, which must be considerable, as a dissenting Teacher has been lately settled among them, besides the restless Enthusiast I have often mentioned—I verily believe this will be their last effort.

For these & many other reasons I could produce, my humble advice is that the Mission be continued in the same state as when I was Missionary, until a person can be procured for Mispillion & St. Paul's.

The subscriptions & Bond of these Congregations will still be in force, if the affair is not dropped. And as there is a prospect that Dover will be speedily supplied, it will make every thing easier. Mr. Magaw, the Gentleman mentioned in my last letter, sailed a few days since for England, to take Orders in our Church, & apply for that Mission. I pray God to preserve him from the disaster of his last predecessor.

You may perceive by the last paragraph of the Extract from Mr. Ridgley's Letter, that the Lay members of our Church here are not averse to Bishops, as our Enemies would falsely represent; but, on the contrary, are sensible of the necessity of Bishops in America, & desire it. With his sentiments agree those of every person of Sense & worth that I know. How much is this event to be desired! Nothing else, be assured, can save our Church from sinking in this part of the world, sooner or later.

I have thus taken the liberty to represent to you, once more, the state of Dover Mission, & the necessity, as I apprehend, that the Society should adhere to their first judgment & determination, when they divided it. This I thought to be my Duty, both to the Society, to the Mission, & my own Conscience. To this sense of Duty be pleased, sir, to impute the trouble of this & my other Letters since I left Dover; not to any fondness of interfering with the affairs of others. From this latter, my former connections with these people, the Confidence they still repose in me to represent their Case to the Society, & repeated requests to that purpose, sufficiently exculpate me, as well as from any Imputation of officiousness in writing to you so often, when your silence ever since my removal seemed to forbid it. Be this as it will, permit me to assure you that you still have my best wishes & Esteem, & that I am, with sincerity,

Rev^d Sir, your affectionate Brother & humble Serv^t,
CHARLES INGLIS.

Mr. MAGAW to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

DOVER, Nov^r 14, 1767.

REV^p SIR,

The Congregations are large, regular, & attentive. The great probability that appears here of the Society's generous endeavours with respect to this part of their charge being fully answered, affords me superior pleasure, and altho' the labor of attending this Mission, in its present state, is very considerable, yet I expect to perform it with facility & satisfaction, while God is pleased to grant me health. The only circumstance that makes me in the least uneasy is that the lower Churches can be attended but seldom, in comparison of the upper ones, which claim my chief attention. And it is upon this principle alone I would wish for the appointment of another Missionary, as soon as the venerable Society may judge it convenient; not that I think any great matter of my trouble.

Cedar Creek is at present connected with the Lewes Town Mission. With regard to the Churches of Musmillion & St. Paul's, near Maryland, which I go to as often as possible (preaching at one on Sundays, and at the other always the Monday following, & sometimes oft'ner). The people belonging to each are numerous, though I believe generally poor. However, I have reason to think they will still be ready to do whatever is in their power for the promotion of Religion among them.

Mr. MAGAW to the Secretary.

DOVER NEAR DELAWARE, Sept' 26, 1771.

REV^d SIR,

The state of this Mission having been faithfully represented to the Venerable Society for many years past, & thoroughly known to them, a variety of circumstances & occurrences which, from a new Mission, it would be absolutely proper & necessary to make a particular report of, may, without impropriety or the least charge of neglect, I humbly presume, be here omitted.

There is still much room, undoubtedly, for the progress of Christianity and the improvement of manners in this place; yet I believe I may safely inform you that, in this respect, the people are making advances, and not declining nor going backward. A regard for Religion and the Ordinances of the Gospel is pretty general among us. The members of our Church, who are more numerous than those of any other Denomination in this County, appear to be well affected to its Doctrines and Discipline, and continue steadfast in their profession. Some of them are really eminent for their pious attachment & well regulated Zeal. There is a peaceful, friendly intercourse, too, subsisting between us & other Religious Societies.

Having some cause to believe that my last letter, of the 27th of April, has not been received, I shall here repeat one thing taken notice of in it, which is, that we have lately sustained a very considerable Loss in this place, in the Death of the Hon^{ble} John Vining, Esq., Chief Justice of this Government—a

valuable, generous man. The reason, particularly, for my mentioning his decease is that he was a member of the Society.

My attendance in Mispillion & St. Paul's Churches continues to be as frequent as can possibly consist with my Duty in the other parts of this Mission.

This obliges me to ride a great deal, and at all seasons, as I have to officiate more than half of the time on other Days, besides Sundays. So that it is no wonder if one should find Health extremely precarious, and a Constitution much endangered, especially in an unhealthy part of the world. However, I shall go on cheerfully, trusting in the divine protection; and thanking the Venerable Society most cordially for their friendship & Beneficence. I think myself happy in being, with Gratitude &

Distinguish'd affection, yours, &c.,

SAM^L MAGAW.

Mr. LYON to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

SUSSEX, Nov' 22, 1773.

REV^D SIR,

In my last Letter to you I mentioned that, considering the many fatigues of this Mission, grown double to me thro' my almost constant Indisposition of Body from inward fevers & sometimes agues, I have been induced to accept of a Parish on the Eastern shore of Virginia.

But my Labours were steadily, for 3 months after Easter, with this people, & since, I have made them several visits; Preached in the different Churches five Sundays, & also given a number of Lectures on week days.

In particular, last Saturday, to the poor people in the Forest, who I have often mentioned to you, as the most proper objects of the Society's Notice in this Mission.

When I took my leave of them, they still preserved their Resolution to use their utmost Efforts to repair an old Church, for the purposes of public worship, as Mr. Tingley is daily expected to be here, and wait with them to know the Society's Pleasure, mean while doing the duty of the Parish.

Since Easter, I have baptized 129 white Infants, 16 white Adults, 6 Black Infants, & 1 Black adult.

The most of these adults had been bred up in the Religion of the Quakers. As such, 'tis truly pleasing to see them come into the Church.

When I recollect the fruits of my Labours among this people, with the mutual Friendship that has subsisted between us, the Review is highly pleasing, inclining me to indulge some tender wishes that it had been expedient, all things considered, for me to have continued with them. But I give way to one who, I heartily wish, may be better able to do the duty of the Parish.

Mr. MAGAW to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

PHILADELPHIA, Oct^r 7th, 1776.

HONOURED SIR,

The situation of Clergymen of the Church of England in America, you well know, is at this time peculiarly delicate & hazardous, in as much as we have the welfare of our Holy Religion to maintain, amidst a variety of difficulties, opposing Interests & Misconceptions. With regard to myself, I have thought it my Duty, for conscience sake, & out of Gratitude to the venerable Society, in whose employment I am engaged, to walk at the present Critical juncture with peculiar Caution & circumspection, avoiding every Compliance that I supposed they might disapprove of, & availing myself of such mild, persuasive expedients as I thought would have a tendency to preserve peace & good order among the people, whose prosperity, under their direction, I am in some degree intrusted with. Through the whole compass of America, I do not believe there can be any where a stronger attachment to the Parent Country, or a more warm regard for that Religion which we jointly profess, than among the greatest number of those to whom I have been appointed to Minister. They ardently wish for peace. They look for reconciliation—safe, constitutional, permanent.

Mr. BARTON to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW YORK, 15th Dec^r, 1778.

REV^d & MOST WORTHY SIR,

From the 25th of Nov^r, 1776 (which was the date of my last letter to you), I never was happy enough till this hour of seeing the least prospect of conveying another. In so melancholy a condition did the Edicts of Congress & the Penal Laws of the New Governm^t place me, that I could have no communication with those who would have forwarded either Letters or Intelligence from me to England. Tho' I cannot complain of having received any gross Insults or *personal* abuse, except from the mob, yet so intollerable were the Penalties of these Laws, & so severe the Execution of them, that prudence & my own safety directed me, at such times as were not employed in Visitations to my people, to confine myself entirely to my own house, which I did for two years. And however disagreeable & unhappy such a Life was to me, I should still have submitted to it, in hopes that it might please heaven, in due time, to relieve me, had not two Laws passed, which left me no choice but, in a limited time, either to abjure my Sovereign, or depart the Country. In this Dreadful situation, I drew up & presented a Memorial to the Ass^ymbly, then sitting at Lancaster, in which I included the other Missionaries of Pennsylvania, as they could not, without transgressing the Laws, leave their own Counties to join me. This Memorial having no effect, & being determined never to sacrifice Principle to Interest, I was reduced to the very melancholy necessity of separating from 8 children (six of them helpless & unprovided for), & from my very Dear & much beloved people, whom I have served for 20 years, & to whom I feel myself attached by every tie of Gratitude & Affection. I enclose you, with other papers, that which expels me to this place. I arrived here about 4 weeks ago, where I found numbers of my Bretheren in the same melancholy predicament. I know not what to do. The Expence of living in this City is so high that nothing but a large fortune can bear it. To quit America, without permission from the Society, I cannot think of, as it is my wish, & shall ever be my study, to do nothing that may

have even the appearance of Undutifulness or disrespect to that truly venerable body. I have no Inclination to relinquish my charge. I lived happily with my congregations. I had a pleasing prospect of being useful to them, & I hope I may be allowed to say, without being suspected of vanity, that my Churches flourished & encreased beyond any I knew. In the two last days before I took my leave of them, I baptized 43 Children & 12 Adults. Our parting was a melancholly one, tho' with some prospects of being again united. If the present obstacles should be removed, It would be my wish & desire to return to them; if not, I must beg to throw myself upon the Goodness of the Society for some provision & patronage in England.

In the meantime, I beg their Instructions & advice, which I shall ever be happy in making the Rule of my Conduct.

Mr. BARTON to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW YORK, Jan^r 8, 1779.

REV^d & WORTHY SIR,

I now embrace this opportunity of representing the state of my Mission, & what Duties I was able to perform for two years past. The Society are already well acquainted that I had 3 stated Churches to attend, viz.: one at Lancaster, where I resided, another at Pequea, in the County of Chester, 19 miles distant, & the third at Caernarvon, on the Borders of the County of Berks, 20 miles distant. The Souls belonging to these 3 Churches amounted to about 1,050, exclusive of a number of others who constantly joined in our worship. Upon the Declaration of Independency, when I saw myself excluded from the publick Duties of my Office, I visited my People, from House to House, & by private Instruction, Exhortation, &c., endeavoured to render myself as useful as possible. I had the pleasure to find that this method of meeting in secret, & as it were, by stealth, having somewhat the appearance of the persecution of the Primitive Christians, it had these good Effects—it kindled & encreased their Zeal, & united them the closer together. In this

way, therefore, I persevered with much satisfaction, till a Law passed, enacting that "no male white Inhabitant, above the age of 18, who had not taken the "Test, should, under the penalty of Imprisonment, go out of the County in "which he resided." Thus circumstanced, as a great part of my Country Congregations resided in different Counties, which cut off my communication with them, & theirs with me, all I could do was to attend near the confines of these Counties, where I was met by the Women (who are not subject to the Penalties of the Law), with their young ones to be catechised, and their infants to be christened. And under these melancholly restrictions, I have sometimes baptized above 30 in a day. In the two last years, I baptized 347 Children, including those of the Military, who were placed amongst us, and 23 Adults. Eleven of the latter were baptized in one day—the day I took my departure. Under the severest oppressions & the greatest Indignities that could be offered to the rights of Freemen, the Behaviour of the Congregations of Pequea & Caernarvon has been such as will ever endear them to me. They have all (4 excepted) uniformly & steadily retained their attachment to British Government, & their affection & Loyalty to their Sovereign. Their Attention, likewise, to myself ought to be mentioned. When they found that I could not, except at the Expence of Honour & conscience, continue with them any longer, having at this time no alternative left but to "renounce the King, his "heirs & Successors, or to depart the state," they made a generous Collection among themselves, presented me £50, & what arrears were due to me, & took a house at Caernarvon for my Children, removed them from Lancaster, with kind assurances that they should be supported till it might please God to unite us again. With this sum, & what arose from the Sale of my furniture, in my Pocket, I am now in this very expensive City; cherished, however, by some hopes that before it is quite expended, I shall be enabled either to return to my Children & churches, or to obtain the Society's permission to quit this ungrateful Country altogether; and, under their benevolent patronage & influence, to solicit some humble appointment in England, where I trust my Fidelity in their service for near 24 years will recommend me to something that may place me above want in my declining days.

The Clergy of America, the Missionaries in particular, have suffered beyond example, & indeed beyond the Records of any History in this Day of Trial. Most of them have lost their all. Many of them are now in a state of melancholly Pilgrimage & Poverty; & some of them have lately (from Grief

& Despondency, it is said), paid the last debt of Nature. Among the latter, I am just informed, are M^r. Reading, of Apoquinimick, M^r. Ross, of New Castle, & M^r. Craig, of Chester, besides several in the northern Colonies. We may exclaim, *Quis Furor, O Cives!* What have we done to deserve this hard treatment from our former friends & fellow Citizens? We have not intermeddled with any matters inconsistent with our Callings & Functions. We have studied to be quiet, & to give no offence to the present rulers. We have obeyed the Laws & Government now in being, as far as our Consciences & prior obligations would permit. We know no Crime that can be alleged against us, except an honest avowal of our principles can be deemed such, and for these have we suffered a persecution as cruel as the Bed of Procustes.

But notwithstanding the Gloomy Cloud that now hangs over us, I cannot, for my own part, let go the pleasing hopes that we shall return to our Charge, & have the pleasure to see the Church of England flourish in America, with encreasing Lustre. I am fully persuaded there is sufficient power & spirit still in the Nation which, whenever properly exerted, will deliver us from the Tyranny that has scourged us so long. It is easy for those who may have an Interest in laying faults committed by themselves upon others, "to mislead by false representations." There are men who have ingeniously asserted that "His Majesty has no Friends in America," than which nothing can be more unjust or untrue. There are thousands here who "have made sacrifices to Britain that will astonish Posterity. Let them not be called Friends, but let them be called Martyrs. They have clung around the Neck of their Parent state with all the Tenderness & Sympathy of Filial Duty & affection," some of whom have suffered even unto Death for their Loyalty. And there are many thousands more, who only wait for some security to evince their Zealous & unshaken attachments. I could say much upon this subject, but I ought to beg your pardon for having already gone so far beyond my Line, & ventured on the field of Politics. They are a disagreeable Topick, & shall therefore be dismissed.

But before I conclude, permit me the liberty to mention two of my Brethren, who have it not in their power to write, and whose present situation claims the Venerable Society's Notice & pity. The first is M^r. Frazer, of Amwel, as worthy a man as lives, who has been strip'd of almost all he possessed, by the Rebel army; and being left in circumstances too low to enable him to remove, is obliged to submit to daily Threats & Insults, & to throw

himself upon the Generosity of his people for the support of a young & growing family.

The second is Mr. F. Illing, a German, who, about 7 or 8 years ago, received Ordination from my Lord Bishop of London, and came to America without any appointment or allowance. He settled in the back parts of Pennsylvania, where he became very useful, by faithfully discharging the duties of his Office, both in English & Dutch, to a large number of People, whose contributions altogether, perhaps, never amounted to £30 sterling per annum, and for 2 years past, would not been sufficient to keep him alive, had he not received relief from private Benificence. It would not become me to point out what should be done for them. I only beg leave to represent them as good men, zealously attached to the Church of England, & the Interest of Great Britain, & as being now in distress.

Mr. BARTON to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW YORK, Oct^r 25th, 1779.

REV^d SIR,

It would give me great pleasure to be able to comply with the Society's directions, with respect to "my occasionally visiting Huntingdon," but in the present state of that Country it is impossible, without runing a very great risk of being at least made a Prisoner. A very formidable & violent Banditti from Connecticut are frequently making incursions into the eastern parts of Long Island, & particularly to Huntingdon, where they plunder, commit robberies, carry off such families & persons as are not their friends. As to "any other place where I can safely perform my Duty," be assured I shall be happy in attending, & shall omit no opportunity that offers for the discharge of my function. My ill state of health obliged me to spend last summer in Staten Island, for the benefit of Bathing & Exercise, where I read prayers, preached very often, & baptized several children. But many parts of that Island being

likewise infested by the Enemy, I could visit only particular places. I intend to go over there occasionally, & try to do all the good I can.

Notwithstanding the present depress'd & persecuted state of the Church of England here, & the many discouragements which at this time present themselves to my view, I am still sanguine enough to hope & believe that she will one day rise triumphant & be the Glory of the new world. The Evidence she has uniformly given of her moderation & peaceableness, & the general conduct of her Clergy throughout the whole of this violent contest, must at length recommend her & them to the Esteem & attention of the people, as soon as their present passions & prejudices cool & subside; particularly to those who (where she has been *silenced*), have never heard anything from the Pulpit but angry Invectives against the best of sovereigns; treasonable Declamations against the best of Governments; Wrath, Bitterness, & persecution against peaceable & innocent people. Should the Church of England, at the conclusion of these troubles, be a little cherished by *Government*, as she has greatly been so by the Society (without whose patronage she must have been totally extinct in America), she will constantly flourish, & grow more than ever. These hopes & this Belief furnish me with the best consolation I now enjoy, & I will cherish them till I die.

Mr. TINGLY to the Secretary.

(EXTRACT.)

NEW YORK, March 5th, 1782.

REVEREND SIR,

During the whole of the late scene of Confusion (I may say present, tho' with us, it is in a much less distressing degree than formerly), the members of the Church in my Mission have proved loyal, excepting a few families, who, tho' they always professed themselves Churchmen, have proved that their principles & professions were not unisons; or, in other words (if not too Ironical), that they are Churchmen by profession, but Presbyterians by trade, *i. e.*, no friends

to Church & state, because their ambitious views could not be gratified in either. And tho' those of this stamp joined with the hot-brained Zealots among the Presbyterians who have almost all, without exception, proved fiery advocates for independency, I have, nevertheless (under the protection of a never-failing God), amidst threats & ill treatment, persevered in the discharge of my Duty. Even in the greatest fury of the Political storm, the Churches were kept open, & I have preached. After the Declaration of Independency, I could not, with safety either to myself, family, or hearers, be explicit in the prayers for the King (whom God preserve & crown with success); & not having it in my power to consult any of my Elder Bretheren, in whose principles I could confide or be influenced by (as most of those in Philadelphia were, to my astonishment, too Zealous in promoting the contrary to what appears to me must necessarily be interwoven with the Heart, Soul, & Mind of a Churchman—may the cloak of Charity hide it from future ages! and as their tryals have probably been greater than mine, in the Spirit of tenderness & compassion, I would say, tell it not in Gath), I was therefore left to my own prudence, & the conduct of Heaven, by which I believe I was directed to adopt the following words in prayer (for they occurred to me at that trying moment), well knowing that if I was prevented from preaching, the flock would unavoidably be scattered. Instead, therefore, of saying, as we are directed, O Lord, save the King, I said, O Lord, save those whom thou hast made it our especial Duty to pray for. We were surrounded by armed men, who had thrown out severe threats. In so critical a situation, what other could I have done? as I was determined, by all possible prudential means, to avoid the distress of being precluded from the use of the Churches; well knowing that if they were once shut against us, we could not recover them, but under the most humiliating & dishonorable Condescensions.

In the Litany, instead of these words, "Thy Servant, George, our most "Gracious King & Governor," I said, "those whom *Thou* hast set in authority "over us, & grant that, under their administration, we may lead quiet & peace-
"able Lives, in all godliness & honesty." In which Words I included all other Petitions to that for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. In this way I have persevered ever since the Society last heard from me, to the comfort of all the Sincere & upright who praise God, that, tho' we cannot consistent with safety be so explicit in those parts of the Service already mentioned, as we could wish, can at the same time appeal to the Great Searcher of hearts for the

integrity of our meaning. Since my coming here, I have been informed that, upon request of advice from London, in this Case, from several Missionaries in these parts, directions have been received that my manner nearly accords with; with this difference, that only the Petition for Magistrates may prudently be used, with omission of those I have used; but as I have so long continued it, upon advice (as our meaning is the same), lest it should occasion any Evil surmises from our Enemies, who will be too apt to suspect the worst, upon my return, as I have been thought too much their Enemy to be trusted in this City, conclude that the same prudential necessity urges a continuance of the same Words, till, by degrees, I can safely adopt the above manner, with my Bretheren, without the lines in this vicinity.

I flatter myself that, as my sincere aim is to promote the Societie's pious design, the Glory of God & the Good of Mankind, that what I have done in so extraordinary a time of difficulty and distress, will not fail of their approbation. I have the satisfaction of frequently hearing the most loyal and pious among us declare that my Conduct, in so dangerous an Emergency, has, under the Blessing of Heaven, greatly and visibly contributed to the Comfort and Establishment of the Members (with the few Exceptions above mentioned) of my Mission, in their Loyalty. I am confident it will prove undeniably true that those who are Churchmen from principle, and consequently admire and adhere to its constitution, and devoutly attend the due administration of its sacred offices, will ever be found the best friends to that of the state, with which it is so intimately connected, and to which they may at all times look, both for support and protection.

My difficulties and sufferings have been many and great. A particular detail of them would be tedious to the Society (as they have received many of a similar nature from others), and extremely painful in the recollection to myself. I shall, therefore, in enumerating, be as brief as possible. I was plundered of many Comforts, sent by my Relations from this City, at a time when they were not to be purchased in that part of the Country where I reside. What added weight to the Affliction was the Charge of an ancient mother, a very sickly wife, and two small Children, to whom the things sent would have been particularly refreshing; and for whose sakes I earnestly requested. After being vilely treated, by sending Soldiers to surround & search my House for Letters respecting their state, with cursing, and swearing I should be hung on one of the highest Trees near the house, they cruelly and

despightfully refused the smallest of the necessaries sent, even tho' my weak and dying wife begged a small part of them as a medicine.

My heart feels much more than I can describe, at the painful remembrance; and my Consolation, for better than three years past, has been in the hopeful persuasion that both my wife and mother have entered into that peaceful Kingdom where the wicked ever cease from troubling, and the weary enjoy everlasting rest.

After their Death, I was almost daily employed in travelling and preaching about the County which bounds my Mission, and sometimes, by special invitation, in the nearest parts of Maryland; and to the utmost of my power, confirming and strengthening the Bretheren. In doing of which, I have travelled at least three thousand miles a year. Notwithstanding my frequent preaching, what with the well known backwardness of People in general in this Country, in contributing, according to their ability, for the decent support of Ministers; The necessity of the times, which pleads greatly in their Excuse for non-compliance in full with the Society's Conditions to their Missionaries, with the rapid depreciation of the paper Currency, the only money in circulation till within a year past. I have been so distressed in my Circumstances as almost, without an exaggerating figure, to say I had scarce bread to eat or raiment to put on, especially the latter, as they were not to be purchased but at a much higher price than I could spare money from the necessities of my family, to procure for myself. I bless God for the Ease and tranquility of mind I once more experience in the Assurance of redress from my long endured Grievs, from the Society's Bounty, which I shall now draw for. The Expectation of receiving it, whenever I should get here, has been the chief support of my spirits, under the mortifying reflection that I have been constrained to be under Obligations to several persons in my Mission, who, tho' they are my real Friends, has been great cause of uneasiness to me. In this hope, I enjoy unspeakable Consolation.

From what I have already offered, the Society will not be surprised at not hearing from me in the long space of six years, as I could not obtain permission to travel to this City; which will be still less so, when I inform them that I have even been refused the small satisfaction of seeing Prisoners brought into the County where I reside, who were acquainted with my relations in this City. Two years ago, they plotted against and designed to injure me, when it was reported, and they expected, I was come to this City. I both desired

and designed it, provided I could do it with safety, but I was disappointed. The good providence of my God watched over me, and again disappointed their malicious designs. The same tender Goodness has, when I almost despaired of soon seeing my native place, unexpectedly raised up a Friend, who procured a permit for me to come hither and return, unmolested from all persons whatsoever, as far as his authority extends, from Mr. John Dickinson, lately chosen Governor of that part of Pennsylvania formerly distinguished by the Counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, But now called the Delaware State.

As soon as I received it I immediately set off, tho' this Season the month of February has proved very inclement weather, more so than has been known for years past, and the Roads extremely bad; after nine days' tiresome journey I reached Elizabeth Town, and two days after, this City, to my own unutterable pleasure, the surprise and joy of my few surviving relations, and remaining Loyal Friends and Citizens. I have been here sixteen days, in which time I have procured, what I have long greatly wanted—suitable Clothing; and, in a few days more, purpose to return to my Mission and family, where I am determined to continue thro' divine aid in the discharge of my Duty, rendered more easy and desirable than some years past, as that violence of Spirit and consequent Conduct, which too long and destructively prevailed, has, in some measure, subsided, Either from a conviction of its unreasonableness in the perpetrators, or the more than ordinary effusion of overpowering restraining Grace; so that, for better than a year past, we have enjoyed a tolerable degree of Quiet, and the Churches duly attended.

As myself and family have, & some of them still do, greatly suffer from the ague and fever, to which the Inhabitants of Sussex County is but too subject in the fall of the year, should the tender mercy of our God restore our former happy days, I would beg the favor of the Society, If any of their missions near New York, my native, healthful Air, be vacant, To inform me of it, with the indulgence of Leave to remove thither.

As I was apprehensive that some evil-minded persons, upon hearing of my having permission to come here, might endeavour to prevent it, I came away with so much Celerity as not to have time to consult the Registers of the different Churches in the Mission, so that it is not at present in my power to be as particular in my account as the Society requires in their abstract. With regard to Baptizms, there have been several thousand since I wrote last, among which were many Blacks, from sixty years to two months old.

This account may seem extraordinary to those who are unacquainted with the situation of that part of the country; not one Clergyman of the Church that officiated for a hundred miles in length except myself. For which reason, whenever I preached for the purpose of giving an opportunity to parents to present their little ones to the Lord, it will not be thought strange that I have baptized from 30, 40, to 50 at one time.

Those who for some time have been deprived of the means of Grace near them, have rode many miles and attended with great seriousness and devotion, blessing and praising God for the opportunity of again worshiping him agreeable to the Order of their own Church, crowding with eager delight to offer their heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord, to him in the Laver of regeneration.

I have, moreover, had to encounter for three years past with the enthusiastic notions of Ignorant methodists and anabaptists, some of whose absurdities has as direct a tendency to overturn all order and decency in the Church, as the base principles and practices of those who call themselves Whigs (a soft Term for rebels) have in the state.

From these, with every other evil both civil and Religious, who can withhold a commiserating tear; while, according to their different stations in Life, they diligently exert those abilities they are endued with, to Glorify the Grand source of truth, peace, and order, in promoting the real good of their fellow men, among whom we discover so many deplorably deluded unhappy Creatures, who can forbear frequently imploring with renewed Ardour; How Long, O Lord! Holy and True, ere the mists of Error in Religion, and the Fog of Political darkness and delusion shall be entirely done away! That it may be speedy, must be the fervent wish and prayer of every sincere Christian. That God would give Peace in our time, that we may rejoice in the felicity of his Chosen; once more feel the Salutary effects of Order and good Governm^t both in Church and State, to our at present unhappy Country, cannot fail of being the daily devout prayer of every unfeigned member of our truly Apostolic Church, and tho' it may be feebler, yet in none more sincere than, rev^d Sir,

The Societies & your most obedient & very

humble servant,

SAMUEL TINGLEY.

NOTES.

P. 1.

Notices of the Rev. Thomas Crawford are to be found in the P. E. Hist. Soc. Coll., i., 63, Anderson's Colonial Church, iii., 262, 263, 580; and in Dorr's Christ Church, Phila., 396, 418, 422-424.

P. 5.

The Rev. George Ross is referred to again and again in the Pennsylvania and Maryland Papers, as well as in this volume. *Vide* also Whitefield's Works, viii., 48; P. E. Hist. Soc. Coll., i., 42, 62, 63, 96; Dorr's Christ Church, 44, 51, 396, 414, 424-6; Anderson's Col. Ch., iii., 259, 260; Hawkins' Missions of the Ch. of Eng., 110, 119; the Abstracts of the Ven. S. P. G. Society, etc., etc.

The Rev. Dr. Evan Evans receives frequent notice in the Pennsylvania and Maryland Papers of this series.

P. 7.

For detailed references to the Rev. Henry Nichols, *vide* the Penna. and Maryland Papers; the P. E. Hist. Soc. Coll., 55, 56, 60-63; Hawkins' Missions, 12, 108, 111, 119; Sprague's Annals, 54; Dorr's Christ Church, 401, 413, 414; Anderson's Col. Ch., iii., 258-260, etc. The Rev. William Black went to Virginia. *Vide* Virginia Papers; Meade's Old Churches, etc., i., 264, 265; ii., 393.

Pp. 7, 8.

The Rev. Thomas Jenkins died July 30th of the following year. *Vide* Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 13.

The Rev. Andrew Rudman died the following month, on Sept. 17th, 1708. Notices of him are found in Dr. Clay's Annals of the Swedes, 87; Dorr's Christ Church, 36, 396, 408, 412, etc. The Rev. John Clubb referred to had been school-master in Philadelphia. He died Dec., 1714. *Vide* Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 27.

The Rev. Robert Sinclair returned to England in 1712. *Vide* Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 30.

The Rev. Jacob Henderson, afterwards Commissary of Maryland, was one of the most prominent of the early clergy. Full notices of his services appear in the Pennsylvania and Maryland Papers, etc.

P. 32.

The Rev. Ericus Biorck, a Swedish convert, signed an address for the appointment of a Suffragan Bishop in 1705, and is referred to in the Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 34.

The Rev. Alexander Addams, of Somerset, is referred to. *Vide* the Maryland Papers of this series.

P. 35.

Further letters and notices of the Rev. William Becket will be found in the Pennsylvania Papers of this series.

P. 37.

The Rev. Andreas Hesselius was a Swedish missionary officiating in the vacant churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware. *Vide* Annals of the Swedes, and Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 49.

Dr. Welton's brief residence in Philadelphia is described at length in the correspondence of the time, in the Pennsylvania Papers. *Vide* also Hawks's "Efforts to Obtain the Episcopate before the Revolution," in the first volume of the Prot. Epis. Hist. Soc. Collections, and Dr. Geo. Morgan Hill's History of the Church in Burlington, N. J.

P. 51.

The Rev. Alexander Campbell is referred to in the Pennsylvania Papers of this series.

P. 55.

The Rev. Daniel Dwight was graduated at Yale College in 1721, and died in 1748. His ministry was spent in South Carolina. *Vide* Dalcho's Hist. of the Ch. in South Carolina, 268, 269, 306, 433; Carroll's Hist. Collections, So. Carolina, ii., 545, etc.

P. 66.

The Rev. Richard Backhouse, of Chester, is the clergyman referred to. *Vide* the Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 68.

For further reference to the Rev. Robert Weyman and the Rev. Commissary Archibald Cummings, *vide* the Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 70.

The Rev. George Frazer is referred to in Meade's Old Churches, etc., i., 192, 448; and also in the Virginia Papers.

P. 71.

The Rev. Walter Hacket spent his missionary life in Pennsylvania and Maryland. *Vide* the volumes of this series for Pennsylvania and Maryland.

P. 73.

The Rev. William Lindsay arrived at Philadelphia, May 28th, 1735. The Pennsylvania Papers refer to his subsequent ministry.

P. 76.

The Rev. William Curry received Holy Orders and was appointed to a cure in Pennsylvania.

P. 77.

The Rev. Arthur Usher officiated in Delaware for twelve years.

P. 80.

The Rev. Edward Vaughan, of New Jersey, was one of the most influential and excellent of the clergy of his time. *Vide* Dr. Clark's Hist. of St. John's Church, Elizabeth, 34-58; Sprague's Annals, 137, 138; the yearly Abstracts of the Ven. Society; the Pennsylvania Papers, and the (unpublished) New Jersey volume of this series.

P. 82.

The Rev. Mr. Gordon referred to was probably the Rev. John Gordon, subsequently "D.D." *Vide* Allen's Hist. Notices of St. Ann's Parish, 64-66, etc.

P. 88.

The Rev. Philip Reading subsequently removed to Maryland, and is marked as "dead" in the list of clergy among the General Convention MSS., under date of 1777.

P. 89.

The Rev. Richard Locke was a missionary in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Of the Rev. Thomas Bluet we shall find notices in subsequent pages. Nothing further is known of Mr. Francis Poulteney.

P. 93.

The Rev. Theophilus Morris had been a missionary in Connecticut. *Vide* Beardsley's History of the Connecticut Ch.

For notices of Commissary Jenney, *vide* the Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 96.

For further notices of the Rev. Hugh Neil, *vide* the Maryland Papers.

P. 101.

Few pages of this volume bring together more noteworthy names than this. The Rev. Charles Inglis, afterward Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia; the Rev. William Maclenachen, whose history, as is the case with that of the celebrated Dr. William Smith, would require a volume for fitting illustration; and the Rev. William Thompson, afterwards D.D., and an efficient missionary in Pennsylvania, were all men of note and influence in the ante-revolutionary Church.

P. 105.

The Rev. Æneas Ross was a worthy and acceptable clergyman whose name will ever be identified with the history of the Church in Delaware.

P. 110.

For notices of the life of the Rev. Aaron Cleveland, *vide* Sprague's Annals, 164-167.

P. 111.

"One Mr. Harris" was probably the Rev. John Harris, of Maryland, a subscriber to President Davies' Sermons.

The Rev. Jacob Duché became one of the most noted of the American clergy. *Vide* the Pennsylvania Papers and countless other authorities.

P. 115.

The Rev. Samuel Auchmuty, D.D., and the Rev. Henry Barclay, D.D., will receive fitting mention in connection with the (unpublished) New York volume of this series.

P. 117.

For reference to the Rev. Richard Peters, D.D., *vide* the Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 122.

The Rev. Samuel Giles and the Rev. Hugh Wilson (nephew of the Rev. Hugh Neil) were lost at sea, April 5th, 1766, on their return from England, whither they had gone for Holy Orders. *Vide* Hawkins' Missions of the Church of England, 125, 300, 325.

P. 124.

The Rev. Samuel Magaw, afterwards D.D., became a leading clergyman in Pennsylvania.

P. 127.

The Rev. James Lyon and the Rev. Samuel Tingley are more fully referred to in the volumes of this series relating respectively to New York and Pennsylvania.

P. 130.

The name of the Rev. Thomas Barton deserves remembrance for faithful and most arduous missionary work. *Vide* the Pennsylvania Papers, Sprague's Annals, Dorr's Christ Church, Sabine's Loyalists, etc., etc.

P. 132.

Notice of the Rev. George Craig will be found in the Pennsylvania Papers.

P. 133.

The Rev. Fraugott Fred. Illing was licensed to Juniata, Penn., in 1772. But little is known of him save this casual reference.

THE END.

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